



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO
SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

FROM: Councilmember Lan Diep
DATE: 5/23/2017

Approved

Lan Diep

Date

5/24/17

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: 1 (FTE) Coordinator for the Office of Immigrant Affairs

Amount of City Funding Required: \$85,704

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

This is a proposal to fund a one-time (1) FTE position for the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) to provide additional support in the execution of the "Welcoming San Jose Plan". Approximately 400,000 San Jose residents are foreign born. Moreover, 60 percent of Santa Clara County residents are a product of at least one immigrant parent. The role of the OIA is more important than ever, not only in working to provide support to the diverse and robust population of the immigrant communities, but also with effectively responding to the urgent service needs resulting from the escalation of exclusionary federal policies.

In 2015, the City of San José established the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), demonstrating its commitment to remain an inclusive, diverse, and vibrant city. Its purpose is to welcome and facilitate culturally-informed immigrant integration with the broader San Jose community. The OIA is the City's clear mechanism to ensure linguistically accessible programs, services, and information; foster civic and social inclusion, and identify opportunities to contribute to the economic dynamism of Silicon Valley. The FY 17-18 Proposed Operating Budget allocates \$250,000 to fund the Office on an ongoing basis, with its current staff capacity.

However, during a time when uncertainty and fear dominate the national political landscape and affect the quality of life of immigrant families, community-based organizations and leadership have shared that some members of the immigrant communities refrain from accessing services and support in fear of deportation. With one-time additional staff capacity, the OIA is well-positioned to engage immigrant communities in their neighborhood and in a culturally informed manner during these urgent times.

The one-time funding will be used to support and enhance the OIA's ongoing efforts, specifically, Year 2 (FY 2017-2018) objectives (totaling 31) identified in the Welcoming San Jose Plan (WSJ). There are three areas of the WSJ Plan that require attention that cannot be supported by current staffing; Education, Economic Opportunities, and Safe, Healthy and Connected Communities. The Coordinator position would ensure a multi-sector approach to developing and implementing the related strategies, thereby making significant progress towards facilitating immigrant integration in San Jose. Ultimately, the one-time funding will be used to support and enhance the OIA's ongoing efforts with translation and interpretation services, civic engagement, and grow capacity to respond to the most pressing needs.

The City of San Jose's aim to become the most successful multi-cultural city in the world is viable, but only if we first address the urgent needs of our immigrant communities.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund)

Department or Organization: Office of the City Manager

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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