



**City of Aurora
Council Agenda Commentary**

Item #: 3b
 SS: 4/23/18
 1st: _____
 2nd: _____

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| Item Title: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE JOINING OF THE WELCOMING AMERICA NETWORK |
| Item Initiator: Gambetta-Alvarado, Ricardo - Community Program Supervisor - General Management |
| Staff Source: Gambetta-Alvarado, Ricardo - Community Program Supervisor - General Management |
| City Manager/Deputy City Manager Signature: Jason Batchelor |
| Outside Speaker: Representative from Welcoming America National Network |
| Council Goal: 2012: 1.2--Develop neighborhood and community relationships |

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED (Check all appropriate actions)

- Approve Item as proposed at Study Session
- Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
- Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
- Approve Item as proposed at Regular Meeting
- Information Only

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, B&C, and Citizen Groups Policy Committee
 Meeting Date: 02/27/2018

Actions Taken: Recommends Do Not Recommend

- Minutes Attached
- Minutes Not Available
- Forwarded without Recommendation
- Recommendation Report Attached

HISTORY (Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)

The Office of International and Immigrant Affairs (OIIA) was created to facilitate the successful integration of immigrants and refugees into Aurora's civic, economic and cultural life and to manage international relations and protocol activities for the city. To guide this office, a Comprehensive Strategic Plan was proposed by staff and approved by the City Council in September 2015. Since its adoption in 2015. The plan sets forth a number of innovative programs and initiatives aimed at integrating the local immigrant and refugee population. Since its adoption in 2015, OIIA has been working to develop and implement those programs and initiatives in collaboration with local nonprofits and key community partners. Many of these programs have been recognized by national and international organizations, including the 2017 City Cultural Diversity Award by the National League of Cities and the 2017 Metro Vision Award by the Denver Regional Council of Governments. As a result of these achievements, OIIA has been approached by "Welcoming America" and "Cities for Citizenship," two of the most important national networks working in the immigrant integration space in the United States. Both organizations have invited Aurora to become an official member. At the January Public

Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions and Citizens Groups Policy Committee, the Committee requested that OIIA provide information at the February meeting regarding Welcoming American and Cities for Citizenship.

At the February meeting of the Committee, they recommended joining Welcoming Cities at the \$1,000 level and Cities for Citizenship and moving this forward to Study Session.

ITEM SUMMARY (Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)

Since 2015, the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs has been working to achieve the objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan, including programs/initiatives in the areas of civic engagement and citizenship. Similarly, "Welcoming America" and "Cities for Citizenship" are two nationally recognized organizations promoting civic engagement, naturalization and citizenship efforts among immigrants and refugees in multiple cities across the U.S. Becoming an official member of both organizations would allow OIIA and the city of Aurora as a whole to access technical assistance, resources, best practices, and educational & training opportunities for OIIA and city staff. A representative of "Welcoming America" was available at committee to discuss the work of each national networks.

Welcoming America information:

Launched in 2009, Welcoming America is a non-partisan organization that provides assistance to cities and towns to become more inclusive toward immigrants, refugees and all residents. Its municipality program offers learning exchanges on national and international levels. More than 100 U.S. cities are active members at this time. The minimum requirement to join Welcoming America is to pay annual fee of \$125.00 and to approve a city resolution to officially join this network (see attached city resolution sample and background info about Welcoming America). At the February meeting of the Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions and Citizens Groups Policy Committee, it was suggested joining Welcoming Cities at the \$1,000 level.

Cities for Citizenship information:

Cities for Citizenship (C4C) is a major national initiative aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents and encourages cities across the country to promote citizenship efforts among immigrants and refugees. More than 50 U.S. cities currently participate in this national network. The only requirement to join Cites for Citizenship (C4C) is a \$750 annual membership fee, fill out an application, and make a commitment to support citizenship efforts in the city.(please see attached additional background info about C4C).

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the Council wish to join Welcoming America and Cities for Citizenship?

LEGAL COMMENTS

City Council shall have the power to preserve and enforce good government, general welfare, order and security of the city and the inhabitants thereof. (Charter Section 3-9). (C.Piekarski)
Dan Brotzman

PUBLIC FINANCIAL IMPACT (If Yes, EXPLAIN)

Yes No

Welcome America's financial impact will be a \$1,000/year per the Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions and Citizens Groups Policy Committee's recommendation. The membership fee for Cities for Citizenship is \$750/year. The Office of International & Immigrants Affairs will be responsible for the totalcost of memberships of \$1,750.

ORG USED: 17041

PRIVATE FISCAL IMPACT *(If Significant or Nominal, EXPLAIN)*

Not Applicable Significant Nominal

N/A

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

Welcoming America Resolution-4-13.pdf
Welcoming Proclamations and Resolutions Samples.pdf
Comprehensive Strategic Plan.pdf
Welcoming America Information.pdf
Cities For Citizenship Information.pdf
022718 Minutes on OIIA Item.docx

RESOLUTION NO. R2018- __

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA,
COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE JOINING OF THE WELCOMING
AMERICA NETWORK

WHEREAS, Aurora is Colorado's most international city and the most diverse in the state of Colorado, and has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, people from approximately 140 countries make their home in this community because they feel welcome, find opportunity and achieve success; and

WHEREAS, Aurora's international community is one of the city's greatest assets; and

WHEREAS, Aurora is the only city in the state of Colorado and one of seven cities in the country, with a comprehensive immigrant integration plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora's Office of international and Immigrant Affairs has been working toward the implementation of this plan for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, many of these new programs and initiatives have been recognized as good practice in local government by national and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming America has been promoting the inclusion and participation of immigrants and refugees in the civic and economic life of U.S. cities; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming America's goals and objectives are fully aligned with the current city efforts in the area of immigrant integration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The Aurora City Council declares its support in officially joining the Welcoming America Network. The City Council believes that joining the network will help to unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here. The City Council urges all residents of Aurora to do their part in reaching out to and welcoming all who live in and visit our City.


RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2018.

STEPHEN D. HOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

LINDA S. BLACKSTON, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Assistant City Attorney II

WELCOMING PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Many communities utilize public Welcoming proclamations or resolutions by elected officials to affirm their support for the principles of being a welcoming community. Additionally, some communities will issue a public statement in conjunction with Welcoming Week.

Welcoming America local government members commit to a proclamation or resolution, and while many choose to do so to announce their participation in the Membership Network, the requirement may be met any time within a reasonable period of becoming a member.

Whether a community wishes to issue a proclamation or resolution merely as a symbolic act or more formally, to become a recognized Welcoming City or County and Member, we ask that you please reach out to Welcoming America before doing so, so that we can best coordinate with you around proactive communications, as well as to avoid potential pitfalls that can come with public declarations.

In general, it's best to:

- Review sample resolutions from other communities for reference
- Speak to voting members of the municipal body in advance to make sure their questions about the resolution are answered and there is nothing standing in the way of their support
- Check-in with the official administering the public meeting to see how well attended it will be and who has signed up to make public comment
- Invite diverse allies of the resolution to attend to support it, watch it be approved, and pose for any photo ops, post on social media

Samples:

- [Gov. Rick Snyder proclaims Welcoming Week in Michigan; Immigrant communities contribute to state's economic revitalization](#)
- [Proclamation by Atlanta, Georgia](#)
- [Proclamation by Beaverton, Oregon](#)

(cont.)

Beaverton

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BEAVERTON

WHEREAS, our community's success depends on making sure that all Beaverton residents feel welcome; and

WHEREAS, foreign-born Beaverton residents are a vital part of our community—bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we all value; and

WHEREAS, we honor the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together and making our community the kind of place where diverse people from around the world feel valued and want to put down roots; and

WHEREAS, regardless of where we are born or what we look like, we are Beaverton residents united in our efforts to build a stronger community; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing the contributions that we all make to create a vibrant culture and a growing economy, we make our community more prosperous and more inclusive to all who call it home; and

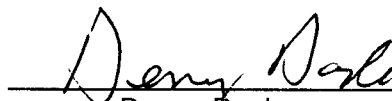
WHEREAS, Beaverton was declared a Welcoming City and member of the National Welcoming Cities and Counties initiative in April 2015; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Denny Doyle, Mayor of the City of Beaverton, Oregon, do hereby proclaim the week of September 12, 2015 as:

WELCOMING WEEK

in the City of Beaverton and call upon the people of Beaverton to join together to build a stronger, united community.




Denny Doyle
Mayor

Proclamation



Welcoming Atlanta Resolution

Resolution affirming Atlanta as a welcoming city that respects the innate dignity of all people.

- WHEREAS, *Fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, enhances Atlanta's cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and*
- WHEREAS, *Atlanta has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and*
- WHEREAS, *Atlanta is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all are welcome, accepted and integrated; and*
- WHEREAS, *Community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between our native-born and foreign-born community members are crucial in encouraging and preserving Atlanta's welcoming environment; and*
- WHEREAS, *Atlanta encourages the business leadership, civic groups, other government agencies and community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, beyond this resolution, to make Atlanta not only a welcoming place for new residents from other countries but also a center of world commerce.*

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor of Atlanta does hereby recognize on this 22nd day of October two thousand and thirteen, the Welcoming Atlanta initiative as helping to unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here. We urge all residents of Atlanta to do their part in reaching out to and welcoming all who live in and visit our City.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kasim Reed", written over a horizontal line.

Kasim Reed
Mayor, City of Atlanta

ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Welcoming America maintains and regularly updates Frequently Asked Questions page on our website at <https://www.welcomingamerica.org/about/faq> in order to help the public and our partners respond to common questions or concerns.

We also make available a number of messaging toolkits to help you in presenting this issue:

- [Stand Together](#)
- [Reframing Refugees](#)
- [Stronger Together](#)

Welcoming America also provides a number of resources in how your community can take the next steps in welcoming, including:

- [Receiving Communities Toolkit](#)
- [Community Planning Process Guide](#)

More resources are listed on our website, www.welcomingamerica.org/resources.

Additionally, our staff is available to help you navigate particular questions or concerns that may arise around issues ranging from refugee resettlement to undocumented immigrants. Please contact Isha Lee anytime for resources or guidance at isha@welcomingamerica.org.