



CHARLOTTE.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Immigrant Integration Task Force Update

July 24, 2014

What Are We Doing Well?

- Cultural events and festivals showcase diversity
- There are a variety of nonprofit organizations to assist immigrants
- Public transportation is reliable, more options and routes available than in the past
- There are more job opportunities available than in the past
- Schools offer quality English-language classes
- Entrepreneurship is encouraged
- The community is accepting of international business community
- Majority of the receiving community is welcoming, helpful, good at volunteering
- The free health clinics that exist are great

Where can we improve?

- Better information to CMS students and parents
 - How to navigate education system & become involved in schools
- Need more opportunities for higher education and skills training
- Improve access to information about resources
 - More marketing & information **printed** in multiple languages
 - Immigrant-oriented City website
- Servicers in multiple languages, not just Spanish
- Charlotte needs more culturally-competent services
- Charlotte needs more sidewalks
- Improve Transit: more connectivity, more options (types & routes), needs to be safer at night
- Charlotte should streamline application processes (businesses, health, etc)
 - Less paperwork & clarify/simplify regulations

What are some critical needs?

- Driver's license/ID access
- Need to build trust
- Central location for resources
 - An official "Welcome to Charlotte" directory or orientation
 - Not just an online presence
- Address roadblocks caused by the 287(g) program
 - Limits economic opportunities
- Cultural sensitivity training for police, other City/County service providers
- Increased access to start-up capital and loans
- Address notary public versus notaries-at-law issues
- Address problems with not receiving medical care benefits or benefits not covering needs
- Address issues with housing discrimination, substandard conditions
- Address mainstream media biases - only focus on the negative

Survey



Published Survey

- Posted on Task Force webpage
- www.CharlotteInternational.org

Action needed

- Share link
- Recruit organizations to help administer survey

August

- Hold organizational meetings of each Working Group before monthly Task Force meeting

August-
November

- In Working Groups, analyze community feedback, research specific topics, and craft actionable recommendations

November

- Working Groups present recommendations to the Task Force for discussion

December

- Task Force prioritizes and decides on proposed recommendations to be presented for community feedback

January

- Host a Community Forum to receive feedback on recommendations

February

- Present final recommendations to Council

Working Groups



Economic Development

- Chair – Wil Russell

Public Safety

- Chair – Stefan Latorre

Transportation/Housing

- Chair – Jennifer Roberts

Education

- Chair – Marianne Lyall-Knusel

Health Care/Social Services

- Chair – Audrea Caesar

Civic Engagement/Receiving Communities

- Chair – Emily Zimmern

Rachel Peric

Deputy Director

Welcoming America

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WELCOMING
AMERICA



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▲ *Building a Nation of Neighbors*

Building a Welcoming City



If the work of the Immigrant Integration Task Force has succeeded, what will Charlotte be like in 5 years? What are the characteristics you would most like to see in the community 5 years from now?

- What do you most want to see?
- What don't you want to see?
- What do you most want to hear?
- What don't you want to hear?
- How would the City, County and CMS be interacting with and serving immigrants?
- How would people and organizations in the community be connected and relate to each other?

Building a Welcoming City



In thinking about your group's responses and the kind of future you want to create for Charlotte, what are the guiding principles that we want to use in shaping recommendations from our Working Groups?

Other immigrant gateway cities have identified:

- Build trust and mutual understanding
- Improve communication
- Increase access
- Grow cross-cultural competency
- Support economic growth

Which ones do we want to adopt here in Charlotte? Are these the appropriate ones? What's missing? Groups discuss and report out on the six guiding principles they want to use in shaping recommendations.

Closing



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Charlotte > Charlotte International Cabinet > Get Involved > Immigrant Integration Task Force

Immigrant Integration Task Force

On November 25, 2013, Charlotte City Council adopted a resolution to create an inter-agency Immigrant Integration Task Force to maximize immigrants' economic and civic contributions to the city of Charlotte.

In 2014, the 29-member task force will review the recommendations of the 2007 Mayor's Immigration Study Commission; research and recommend policies that facilitate access to city services for all residents of Charlotte, while addressing gaps in civic engagement; prepare a report with recommendations to the City Council that promotes awareness among the public of the availability of existing programs and services facilitating immigrant integration; and seek opportunities to better educate the Charlotte community on how embracing immigrant communities will help move the city forward.

All Task Force meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of every month for one year and open to the public. Additionally, the Task Force will host public Community Listening Sessions to engage the public in open discussion throughout the spring of 2014.

Upcoming Task Force Meeting:
June 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m. RSVP
 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
 600 East 4th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

Upcoming Community Listening Sessions:
CPCC and The Neighborhood Good Samaritan Center
June 11, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Sailboat Bay Apartments
 5417 Albemarle Road
 Charlotte, NC 28212

Charlotte International Cabinet and Choice Translating
June 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Tryon Plaza
 112 S. Tryon Street, 2nd Floor
 Charlotte, NC 28202

Next Meeting

- **August 28, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**
CMGC, Room 267

Next Listening Session

- **July 28, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
1431 Elizabeth Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28204
- **Need 2-3 Spanish-speaking Task Force Members**

More Information

- www.CharlotteInternational.org