



CHARLOTTE.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Immigrant Integration Task Force Update

August 28, 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



Released Online in 6 Languages

- English, Spanish, German, French, Russian, & Chinese

What Brought Them to Charlotte

- 2/3 transferred here or accepted a new job offer here

Well Trained

- 43% have Masters Degrees
- 80% say their job matches their training

Entrepreneurs

- 20% own their own business
- 60% asked a friend for help starting their business

17 %



8 %

6%



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

National Welcoming Week



Naturalization Ceremony

- **September 15, Morning**
CMGC, Meeting Chamber

#CLTroots & #welcomingweek

- **Sept. 15 – 19**
Online Social Media Campaign

Proposed Guiding Principles



How do we build a welcoming city?

- **EQUAL ACCESS:** Ensure availability of economic, civic, cultural, and educational opportunities and government services for all residents.
- **INCLUSION:** Embrace diversity as a strength, build a sense of belonging, safety, and community for all residents, and promote cross-cultural competence.
- **CONNECTION:** Promote physical connectivity among neighborhoods, digital connection to government information and resources, and social connection among diverse groups.
- **ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Promote economic development through business start ups, workforce development/skills training, access to financial services and regeneration of declining and vacant areas, leverage technology, and position Charlotte as globally competitive.
- **WELL-BEING OF ALL:** Recommend policies, practices and resources that benefit the entire community and promote the health and safety of all residents.

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 – Ellen Dubin

Civic Engagement/Receiving Communities

- Chair – Emily Zimmern

Closing



The screenshot shows a webpage from the Office of International Relations. The header includes the office name, a search bar, and navigation links for Resources, News & Events, and Get Involved. The main content area is titled 'Immigrant Integration Task Force' and features a 'Notify Me' button. The text on the page describes the task force's mission, its formation in 2014, and its goals. It also lists upcoming meetings and listening sessions, including dates, times, and locations. A sidebar on the left contains links to various resources and news items.

Next Meeting

- **Tuesday, September 23,
3:00-5:00 p.m.
CMGC, Room 267**

Next Listening Session

- **Aug 28, 6:00 p.m.
Latin American Coalition**
- **Final Task Force Listening Session
Early-Mid September
Huntingtowne Farms Elementary**

More Information

- www.CharlotteInternational.org