

RESOLUTION OF THE
CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL
CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
TO MAXIMIZE IMMIGRANTS' ECONOMIC AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

WHEREAS, the foreign-born population in the Charlotte metropolitan area increased from 23,000 to 173,000 residents from 1990 to 2011, with immigrants of all skill levels being active participants in Charlotte's economy; and

WHEREAS, a May 30, 2013, roundtable meeting organized by Americas Society/Council of the Americas among leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society added new momentum and urgency to the role that the City of Charlotte can play in providing the framework for its immigrant populations to maximize their roles in expanding the local economy and enriching civic life; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte community and other cities represented at the May 30 roundtable recognized that the challenges immigrants face in integrating in our education system, neighborhoods, industries, and businesses affects Charlotte's potential for job creation and that the City of Charlotte and its business community should work to address these challenges in order for Charlotte to continue its trajectory as a globally competitive city; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Charlotte City Council that the City of Charlotte will prioritize steps to facilitate immigrants' ability to contribute to the community through the creation of an inter-agency task force with a mandate to examine and recommend best practices in immigrant integration and educate the community of the economic and social benefits of its growing immigrant populations. The Immigrant Integration Task Force shall have such powers and duties set forth in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Immigrant Integration Task Force shall consist of up to 29 members, all of whom shall serve without compensation. Mayor Patsy Kinsey shall appoint up to seven (7) members that represent certain areas of specialized expertise, Mayor Patrick Cannon shall appoint up to four (4) at large members, and the City Council shall appoint the remaining members after receiving nominations from community agencies as outlined in the attached Framework for Task Force Appointments (Exhibit A). Mayor Kinsey will select a Chair and Vice-Chair from the members appointed. Upon his or her selection, the Chair of the Task Force shall call an organizational meeting.
- (2) The work of the Immigrant Integration Task Force shall be sponsored by the Charlotte International Cabinet, Neighborhood & Business Services, and may receive additional amounts of private funds as required to complete its work.
- (3) The Immigrant Integration Task Force is hereby charged and authorized as follows:
 - a. To review the recommendations by the Mayor's Immigration Study Commission, published in 2007, in order to leverage previous research and conclusions;

- b. To research and recommend policies—including those from other new immigrant gateway cities—that facilitate access to city services for all residents of Charlotte, including its immigrant populations, while addressing gaps in civic engagement;
- c. To prepare a report with recommendations to the Charlotte City Council that promote awareness among the public of the availability of existing programs and services facilitating immigrant integration;
- d. To seek opportunities to better educate the overall Charlotte community on how embracing immigrant communities will help to move the city forward.

(4) The Immigrant Integration Task Force shall deliver its findings and recommendations to the City Council within one year of their first meeting.

(5) Upon delivery of its findings and recommendations, the Task Force will work in coordination with Charlotte City Council to promote initiatives that facilitate immigrant integration. The May 30 AS/COA roundtable highlighted some of the ways in which to facilitate immigrant integration:

- a. Financial Inclusion: Promote citywide efforts that teach financial literacy and raise awareness of the importance of entering the formal financial system in order to build savings and credit.
- b. Education: Support digital inclusion programs that facilitate increased access to technology in immigrant communities.
- c. Civic Integration: Encourage immigrants to join boards and commissions to improve civic engagement and representation.
- d. Public Safety: Establish a hotline supported by a local, trusted non-profit organization that immigrants can trust to report crimes. Improve trust and dialogue between immigrants and the police department through designated police programs that engage and outreach with immigrant communities.
- e. Collaboration: Form and maintain direct ties with immigrant communities and community-based organizations to ensure a steady flow of communication.
- f. Celebrate Diversity: Partner with community organizations which organize celebrations (festivals, street fairs, etc.) that expose the greater Charlotte community to the contributions and diversity of the city's immigrant populations.

(6) The Immigrant Integration Task Force shall meet quarterly to assess progress on its recommendations and to ensure that city services and public-private partnerships toward immigrant integration are being effectively implemented. Task Force meetings shall periodically invite public comments and participation.

ADOPTED by the Charlotte City Council on the 25th day of November, 2013.
AMENDED by the Charlotte City Council on the 10th day of February, 2014.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

City Clerk