

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** March 22, 2017

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Bill Thomas, Acting City Manager

**Subject:** H.3. Staff Report (For Possible Action): Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution affirming the City of Reno as a welcoming city that respects the innate dignity of all people.

**From:** Amber Drlik, Management Analyst

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**Summary:** City Council has been involved in discussions about concerned citizens requesting to affirm that Reno is a community of refuge for those fleeing violence and persecution from conflicts around the globe. The Council and City staff has heard from a broad range of individuals and stakeholders concerning the City's involvement in this matter. At the direction of City Council, City staff has prepared this resolution regarding City of Reno involvement and position.

**Background:** On March 8, 2017, Council directed staff to prepare a resolution addressing the City of Reno as a welcoming city.

**Discussion:** Following requests by stakeholders, the City of Reno is offering a formal position committing to being a welcoming city and creating a community where all of our residents feel welcomed, safe and able to fully participate in, and contribute to, our city's economic and social life. This finding is in line with the mission of the City of Reno which is "Creating a community that people are proud to call home". Additionally, the Reno Police Department has become a leader in Community Policing to build solid relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement.

This resolution will commit to being a welcoming city and creating a community where all of our residents feel welcomed, safe and able to fully participate in, and contribute to, our city's economic and social life. City staff is committed to take action, within their granted oversight, for the benefit of the Reno community as a whole. The outcome of this resolution will be for the benefit of the Reno community as a whole.

**Financial Implications:** None at this time.

**Legal Implications:** Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada Law.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends Council adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ affirming the City of Reno as a welcoming city that respects the innate dignity of all people.

**Proposed Motion:** I move to adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ affirming the City of Reno as a welcoming city that respects the innate dignity of all people.

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF RENO AS A  
WELCOMING CITY THAT RESPECTS THE INNATE  
DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE.**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the City of Reno is "Creating a community that people are proud to call home", and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Reno was built by pioneering immigrants, and our history is one of welcoming those seeking freedom from persecution and the opportunity for a better life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Reno has remained true to our heritage, and has welcomed refugees seeking new homes, safety, freedom, and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, Reno has 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**, one out of every five Nevada residents is an immigrant and these immigrants generated \$795 million in business income in 2014, contributing \$13.2 billion in local, state and federal taxes; and

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

**WHEREAS**, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between our native-born and foreign-born community members are crucial by encouraging and preserving Reno's welcoming environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Reno Police Department has worked tirelessly to develop a Community Policing program to build solid relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement, that are a foundation for a safer and stronger community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Reno is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all are welcome, accepted and integrated; and now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Reno, Nevada that the City of Reno is committed to being a welcoming city and sustaining a community where all of our residents feel welcome, safe and able to fully participate in, and contribute to our city's economic and social life; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Reno is committed to welcoming all individuals through statements and actions, knowing that discrimination impedes the social and economic progress of a city by preventing all of our residents from fully contributing to the cultural, spiritual, social and commercial life of our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Reno is safer when all people feel safe reporting crimes to the Reno Police Department, which operates under a policy of treating all persons in a professional and courteous manner regardless of their citizenship; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Reno City Council urges all residents of Reno to reach out and welcome all those who live in and visit our great city; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Reno encourages business leaders, civic groups, government agencies and community institutions to undertake their own initiatives beyond this resolution, to make Reno not only a welcoming place for new residents from other countries, but also a major center of global commerce and tourism; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that City Council will direct staff to take action, within their granted oversight, for the benefit of the Reno community as a whole.

Upon motion by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, by the following vote of the Council:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
HILLARY SCHIEVE  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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ASHLEY D. TURNEY  
CITY CLERK