

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Adoption of Resolution No. 401 Declaring the City of Shoreline to be an Inviting, Equitable and Safe Community for All and Prohibiting Inquiries by City of Shoreline Officers and Employees Into Immigration Status and Activities Designed to Ascertain Such Status
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager's Office
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	John Norris, Assistant City Manager
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

In response to hearing about some incidents around the Country where citizens have been targets of harassment, bullying, intimidation, violence, or other acts of hate because their religion, race, immigration status, or some other protected class, Mayor Roberts asked staff to review and put together a resolution for Council consideration that would speak to Shoreline being an inviting, equitable and safe City for all residents and visitors. Tonight, Council will discuss proposed Resolution No. 401, which declares the City of Shoreline to be an inviting, equitable and safe community for all and prohibits inquiries by City of Shoreline officers and employees into immigration status and activities designed to ascertain such status. As this is a proposed Action Item in front of the Council for the first time, as per Council rule, public comment on this resolution shall follow the staff report but precede Council review and potential adoption of proposed Resolution No. 401.

**RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Staff does not believe there to be a financial impact to adopting Resolution No. 401. However, threats have been made by the new incoming presidential administration that cities that do not cooperate with federal agencies in providing information about known undocumented immigrants may lose federal grant funding. While proposed Resolution No. 401 only precludes City staff and officers from asking Shoreline residents about their immigration status, which is a long standing practice of the King County Sheriff's Office, it is possible that this type of resolution could be seen by the incoming presidential administration as in conflict with their immigration policies, which could put the City at risk of losing federal grant funding. It is unknown whether this threat would actually be realized or what the outcome of a potential legal challenge would be, if this federal policy were challenged in court.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 401

Approved By:      City Manager ***DT***    City Attorney ***MK***

## **BACKGROUND**

In response to hearing about some incidents around the Country where citizens have been targets of harassment, bullying, intimidation, violence, or other acts of hate because their religion, race, gender, immigration status, or some other protected class, Mayor Roberts asked staff to review and put together a resolution for Council consideration that would speak to Shoreline being an inviting, equitable and safe City for all residents and visitors. Other local communities, such as Olympia, Everett, Seattle, Burien and Kirkland, have also reinforced their commitment to acceptance, equal treatment and safety for everyone in their community, and staff reviewed those communities' resolutions and proclamations when drafting this proposed resolution for Council consideration.

## **DISCUSSION**

Tonight, Council will discuss proposed Resolution No. 401 (Attachment A). Proposed Resolution No. 401 resolves to make Shoreline an inviting, equitable and safe community for everyone. It also resolves that the City is committed to standing together with the people of Shoreline in opposing hate, violence and acts of intolerance committed against our community members and that the City will continue to reach out to and connect with all members of the community to ensure that City programs are accessible and open to all individuals.

Additionally, the proposed Resolution No. 401 prohibits any inquiries, unless required by law or by court order, by Shoreline officers and employees into the immigration status or any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person. This prohibition conforms with the long-standing King County Sheriff's Office policy, with whom the City contracts for police services, that prohibits Sheriff's Office personnel from inquiring about an individual's immigration status. It also conforms with the City's current practices, although there are no instances that staff could think of where staff would ask about a resident's immigration status in receiving service from the City. Thus, while this section of the resolution would not change any current operational practices at the City, it does formally affirm the City's and the Police Department's practices and policies and gives weight to their meaning and value.

As proposed Resolution No. 401 is in front of the Council for the first time, as per Council rule, public comment on this resolution shall follow the staff report but precede Council review and potential adoption.

## **RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Staff does not believe there to be a financial impact to adopting Resolution No. 401. However, threats have been made by the new incoming presidential administration that cities that do not cooperate with federal agencies in providing information about known undocumented immigrants may lose federal grant funding. While proposed Resolution No. 401 only precludes City staff and officers from asking Shoreline residents about their immigration status, which is a long standing practice of the King County Sheriff's Office, it is possible that this type of resolution could be seen by the incoming presidential administration as in conflict with their immigration policies, which could put

the City at risk of losing federal grant funding. It is unknown whether this threat would actually be realized or what the outcome of a potential legal challenge would be, if this federal policy were challenged in court.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 401

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Proposed Resolution No. 401

**RESOLUTION NO. 401**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY OF SHORELINE TO BE AN INVITING, EQUITABLE AND SAFE COMMUNITY FOR ALL AND PROHIBITING INQUIRIES BY CITY OF SHORELINE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES INTO IMMIGRATION STATUS AND ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASCERTAIN SUCH STATUS**

WHEREAS, the City believes that the strength and vitality of our community comes from our rich diversity of cultures, experiences and faiths; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes and upholds the rights of individuals to be treated fairly and to live their lives with dignity and respect and free from discrimination or targeting because of their immigration status, faith, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, age, ability, ethnicity, housing status, economic status, or other social status; and

WHEREAS, the City strongly condemns any act of harassment, bullying, intimidation, violence, or other acts of hate that are based on immigration status, faith, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, age, ability, ethnicity, housing status, economic status, or other social status; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to ensuring that Shoreline remains a welcoming, inclusive and safe community for all who live, work and visit here; and

WHEREAS, the City will continue to work, in cooperation with our community partners, to ensure our services and programs are accessible and open to all individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City affirms the King County Sheriff's Office policy, with whom the City contracts for police services, that prohibits Sheriff's Office personnel from inquiring about an individual's immigration status and from engaging in activities to ascertain such status; and

WHEREAS, the City's current practice prohibits City employees from inquiring about an individual's immigration status and from engaging in activities to ascertain such status; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to ensure that its officers and employees follow a policy of prohibiting the inquiring into a person's immigration status or from engaging in activities to ascertain such status; and

WHEREAS, as leaders in the community, we have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of discrimination, harassment or hate against any of our residents, and we choose to be a leader in protecting human rights, equity, public safety and social well-being;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

That the City Council of the City of Shoreline is committed to making Shoreline an inviting, equitable and safe community for everyone; committed to standing together with the people of Shoreline in opposing hate, violence and acts of intolerance committed against our community members; and committed to continuing our work to reach out to and connect with all members of our community to ensure that our programs are accessible and open to all individuals.

That the City Council of the City of Shoreline prohibits any inquiries, unless required by law or by court order, by Shoreline officers and employees into the immigration status or any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 23, 2017.**

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Christopher Roberts  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk