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Laura Counsell  
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Pastor Caleb Mayberry  
Dr. Kevin McCarthy  
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Councilmember Ruth Pérez  
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To: Mayor Denis Law  
From: Mayor's Inclusion Task Force

Date: April 24, 2019

In this first Annual Report to you, our intent is to report our accomplishments for the year, to confirm the effectiveness of this Task Force, and to affirm the need for ongoing support of this group by the City of Renton.

**Task Force goals and selected accomplishments for 2018**

1. Renton Multicultural Festival: Co-sponsor and co-chair the annual Renton Multicultural Festival.
  - a. *Task Force members co-chaired all Festival Subcommittees in partnership with City staff.*
  - b. *Task Force members volunteered during the two-day Festival in a number of capacities including providing refreshments at Carco on Friday evening, decorating, emceeding, distributing Festival flyers and attending the Festival and bringing guests.*
2. Safe Spot Campaign: Explore actions the Task Force can take to help all residents feel safe and welcome in Renton.
  - a. *The Subcommittee has done some research and developed beginning ideas, work will continue on this goal.*
3. Connecting Residents with the City / Connecting Communities: Find effective ways to communicate who the Task Force is and what we do for Renton residents. Host a series of conversations with different cultures to build bridges.
  - a. *Partnered with Community Services to outreach to diverse communities to gather information from elders on what would make the Senior Activity Center meaningful and useful to them.*
  - b. *Partnered with Parks Recreation and Natural Areas Plan team to conduct outreach to diverse communities to solicit input for the Plan.*

- c. *Consistently acted as a two-way conduit of information between their respective communities and the City.*
- 4. Economic Vitality: Promote economic development and development of commerce in Renton; especially for small and / or culturally diverse businesses.
  - a. *Encouraged Renton Downtown Partnership to participate in the annual Renton Multicultural Festival.*
  - b. *Partnered with CED to place information on the Festival Program that highlighted shopping, restaurants, cafes and bars in downtown Renton.*
- 5. Engage Youth: Create a program to invite high school youth to be part of this Task Force.
  - a. *Recruited three youth as members of the Task Force.*
- 6. Safety in Renton: Explore how we protect people in Renton from hate crimes. Explore what we can do to assist in emergency preparation, especially in our most vulnerable communities.
  - a. *Provided input to Emergency Preparedness on planning for the most vulnerable residents in the event of a major disaster.*

#### **Task Force Effectiveness**

In 2018, the Task Force met bi-monthly in odd-numbered months and the meeting agenda varied. In addition to acting as a policy sounding board to the Mayor and Administrators of the City, members bring current issues or guests from their respective communities to bring concerns and issues to the attention of the City.

At the end of 2017, the Task Force set goals for 2017-2018 using the processes of brainstorming, dialogue and consensus. They established subcommittees to address each of the goal areas and each member decided on which subcommittee(s) they would like to serve. In some meetings a portion of the agenda was set aside as a work session for the goal subcommittees to meet and then report back to the entire body.

Task Force members regularly share information about opportunities, policies, events, community engagement with their respective community members. In addition they have actively partnered with the City to inform members of their communities about their various opportunities to provide input in city policy and planning.

The relationships that have formed among members of the Task Force is what inspired them to initially host an event bringing members of their respective communities together and later to partner with the City in launching the Renton Multicultural Festival which takes place for the fourth year in a row in 2019, and in 2018 won the Totem Award from the Public Relations Society of America Puget Sound Chapter.

### **Ongoing Need for the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force**

The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force has demonstrated its strength and effectiveness since its launch in May 2014. Several members came from the predecessor of this group, the *Community Liaisons* whose members also had a track record of providing two-way communication between their communities and the City.

The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force has demonstrated its value and fulfilled its Charter in the following ways:

- Envisioning and co-sponsoring the annual Renton Multicultural Festival. A celebration of the diversity of Renton and an opportunity for attendees to learn more about cultures other than their own.
- Providing technical assistance to the City when requested on language translation of information shared with residents.
- Partnering with several City departments to provide access, engagement, and voice to communities that have traditionally not been easily accessible by the City.
- Serving as presenters in each of the 2018 Inclusion Workshop sessions to share unique considerations for serving their respective communities with City staff.
- Providing input to Human Resources on barriers to employment with the City as perceived by their respective communities in the research phase of the HR Inclusion Tactical Plan.
- Personally engaging in community outreach and arranging community meetings for residents to interact with City staff.
- Inviting City officials and staff to events in their communities.
- Regularly sharing critical information on a timely basis with members of their respective communities.
- Serving as advocates for their respective communities and for the most vulnerable communities.
- Assisting in recruitment for positions in the City such as staff, boards, committees and commissions.
- Investing in forming relationships with each other and among their respective communities to meaningfully further the City's goal of Inclusion.

For these reasons, we recommend continuing support by the City of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force and its endeavors.