

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

a. Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION strengthening public safety by affirming the City’s support for immigrant and refugee witnesses, survivors, and victims of crime.

b. Summary and background of the Legislation:

The Resolution affirms the City of Seattle’s support of immigrant communities and recognizes the chilling effect on immigrant survivors and witnesses to report incidents of crime and/or abuse. A national survey of survivor advocates and legal service providers found that over 75 percent of respondents report their clients have concerns about contacting the police when abuse or crime occurs; a 62 percent increase in questions related to immigration; and 43 percent of advocates report that immigrant-survivor clients have dropped civil or criminal cases because they were fearful to continue their cases. This resolution recognizes the particular vulnerability of non-citizens and their fear of deportation as a significant barrier in reporting domestic violence and/or violent crimes.

The resolution acknowledges the Seattle Police Department’s administrative capacity to certify I-918B Forms – one part of U-Visas, a program administered by the Department of Homeland Security – as a regional best practice, along with the City Attorney’s Office’s Domestic Violence Unit providing culturally and linguistically responsive support for all survivors and victims of abuse. The City commits to protecting all victims and survivors of crime and abuse, and any witnesses who cooperate with criminal investigations, to work with City Departments and established community-based organizations to build knowledge, capacity, and trust for immigrant victims, survivors, and witnesses to feel safer in reporting crimes and to identify ways to strengthen language access and to improve furnishing of information on levels of protection available for immigrant victims, survivors, and witnesses of violent crime pursuant to RCW 7.69.030 in culturally and linguistically responsive ways. City Council requests a written report of strategies recommended to this resolution to the members of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee or its successor on or before April 30, 2018.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

a. Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes X No

If yes, please fill out the table below and attach a new (if creating a project) or marked-up (if amending) CIP Page to the Council Bill. Please include the spending plan as part of the attached CIP Page. If no, please delete the table.

Project Name:	Project I.D.:	Project Location:	Start Date:	End Date:	Total Project Cost Through 2022:

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3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes ___X_ No

- b. Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

- c. Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

City Attorney's Office, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

No

- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No

- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No

- f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

Survivors, victims, and witnesses are vulnerable members of our community, something that is compounded as an immigrant who may or may not experience language and cultural barriers to accessing law enforcement systems in place to protect our community. Additionally, an immigrant's status can frequently cause additional fear, stress, and anxiety over interactions with law enforcement, especially if they are undocumented. Due to a number of barriers and fear of deportation – regardless if they are undocumented or a

legal permanent resident – many immigrant who are victims, survivors, or witnesses may choose to not report incidents that happen to them or they may witness.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s).**

Not applicable.

- h. Other Issues:**

None.

List attachments/exhibits below:

None.