

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
270	1	C	1

Budget Action Title: Report regarding how the Executive plans to implement Resolution 31775, strengthening public safety by affirming the City's support for immigrant and refugee witnesses, survivors, and victims of crime

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: González, M. Lorena

Councilmembers: Harris-Talley; Johnson

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	KH	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
11/15/2017	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Background

Resolution 31775 was adopted by Council October 2, 2017. It recognizes that effective law enforcement needs the participation and cooperation of crime victims and witnesses and that immigrants and refugees may fear and be reluctant to contact law enforcement, particularly in the current political climate. The Resolution requested the Executive work with community based organizations and immigrant and refugee communities: (1) to build knowledge, capacity, and trust for immigrant victims, survivors, and witnesses to feel safer in reporting crimes and to provide information on potential protections, (2) to identify concrete strategies to improve language access practices for these communities, and (3) to gain a qualitative sense of whether there has been a chilling effect and reduced reporting of crime by immigrant and refugee communities. Under that Resolution, the Executive is to report to Council by April 30, 2018.

Statement of Legislative Intent

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests the Human Services Department (HSD), with support from Office of Immigrant Refugee Affairs (OIRA), to determine in a brief memo copied to the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee and the Council Central Staff Director:

- A baseline of qualitative data about the effect of federal anti-immigrant initiatives and policies on the reporting of crime;
- Community-informed identification of:

- Existing and future strategies to improve language access practices, knowledge, and capacity to best serve no-English proficiency or limited-English proficiency victims, survivors, and witnesses of violent crimes;
- Mapping of relationships and roles for various stakeholders including law enforcement agencies, advocates, and community-based organizations; and
- Gaps that currently exist to support immigrant survivors and witnesses or victims to crime;
- How to continue convening community-based organizations and immigrant and refugee communities on an ongoing basis to ensure the City is continuing to respond to emerging needs related to the issues identified in Resolution 31775; and
- Recommendations to fight any chilling effect reducing the reporting of crime and to encourage reporting of crime by immigrant and refugee communities, including a strategy to work with community-based organizations and other stakeholders to respond to emerging needs.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee

Date Due to Council: April 30, 2018