

**CITY OF ANAHEIM
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE – WELCOMING ANAHEIM INITIATIVE**

MINUTES

March 31, 2017

Agenda Posting: A complete copy of the Anaheim Sister City Commission Agenda was posted on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at Anaheim City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tait called the meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Welcoming Anaheim to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017 at the Gordon Hoyt Conference Room, Anaheim West Tower, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd., 2nd Floor, Anaheim, California.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Tait began the meeting by asking members around the table to introduce themselves. The following Task Force members were present:

- 1) Mayor Tom Tait
- 2) Councilmember Steve Faessel
- 3) Councilmember Jose Moreno
- 4) Glen Peterson, World Relief
- 5) Valentina Purtell, Provost, School of Continuing Education, North OC Community College District
- 6) Julio Perez, OC Labor Federation
- 7) Allison Edwards, OC Human Relations Commission
- 8) Nathan Zug, Chairman, Anaheim Religious Coordinating Council & Minister, Magnolia Baptist Church
- 9) Mike Matsuda, Superintendent, Anaheim Union High School District

City staff included Brent Dennis, Community Services Director, Dan Cahill, Deputy Police Chief, Greg Garcia, Deputy City Manager, Theresa Bass, City Clerk's Office, Dukku Lee, Anaheim Public Utilities and Mishal Montgomery, Mayor's Chief of Staff.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Tait opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments. Mayor Tait indicated that he would allow public comments throughout

the meeting as appropriate if a member of the public wished to speak or had a question.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Staff requested that this item be continued to the next meeting. The minutes from the last meeting were not completed in time for this meeting. Mayor agreed to continue this item to the next meeting,

IV. REPORT FROM ANAHEIM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Tait indicated that this item is an opportunity to hear from a handful of our City Departments about some of the things we are currently doing with regard to new residents. This may allow the Task Force to build upon some of the things that are already being done. Mayor Tait introduced Deputy Chief Cahill and asked him to kick off the conversation.

Deputy Chief Cahill spoke about the APD programs and functions specifically four key areas:

Communication – We have officers that speak many different languages in order to connect with all parts of our community. They strive to be able to properly connect and communicate with residents.

Relationships – APD meets with the community on a regular basis through important programs such as Chief Advisory Board, Neighborhood Advisory Council, Coffee with a cop and neighborhood watch programs.

Education: The Police spend a lot of time on providing resources to the community and educating residents on how to access those important resources like the Family Justice Center. They also have created content for their website to help educate the community on what we do.

Enforcement: Many people just think about enforcement when thinking about Police. They go out in the community and let the community know that they do not enforce immigration laws. We need to gain the trust of the community. The CA Trust Act ensures that we do not enforce federal immigration law and we do not detain people for ICE without a warrant.

All of these strategies are aimed at engaging the community and gaining their trust.

Mike Matsuda thanked the Deputy Chief for the work that have done in the schools specifically with the Family and Community Engagement Specialists as their schools. Glen Peterson ask about what strategies they employ to build trust. Deputy Chief mentioned that partnering with local churches and other trusted stakeholders is important. Steve Faessel read an article from the LA Times that

stated if people are afraid of the police then they won't report crime and that in turn leads to more serious issues.

Valentina Purtell asked the Deputy Chief if they could come to her campus in order to hold a coffee with a cop session. Additionally, she asked if it would be appropriate to enter into an MOU with APD in order to codify the relationship. Deputy Chief agreed to come to the campus, but said he wasn't aware if an MOU was necessary but would be happy to explore it. Mike Matsuda asked if there is heightened anxiety and hesitancy to work with APD. Deputy Chief said that it is a real problem that they have been hearing about from their partners. In response APD is putting out more information about our practices and a letter from the Chief to the community to reassure them that we do not enforce immigration laws. Mike Matsuda mentioned that a recent demonstration in Anaheim could have gotten out of control and the fact that it did not, speaks to the success of APD's policies and community outreach.

In the interest of time, Mayor Tait moved on to Brent Dennis from Community Services. Brent described the activities of the community services department and explained that his staff is embedded in the community through numerous programs. Their role is to connect residents to all of our city services. Brent described a number of programs that they facilitate on the issue of building trust including participating in community forums on immigration. He mentioned that staff has notice a decline in participation and enrollment in certain classes and programs and that his team is working to combat that decline by educating people. Mike Matsuda mentioned that they are also seeing reduced enrollment into some important programs at their schools. That fear of people that leads to them not participating in programs is very problematic. Julio Perez mentioned that people in Orange County are legitimately scared to come out of their homes and sharing information with anyone that could potentially be shared with the federal government. Until local agencies guarantee that they will not share any information with the federal government, people will continue to be scared. He mentioned that perhaps this is a policy recommendation that the task force should consider. Councilmember Moreno mentioned that they have certain protections in schools and confirmed that there are rules in place for K-12 all the way up to the university level. He asked if the City has anything like that on the books. Brent indicated that we do not.

Mayor Tait then moved on to Dukku and indicated that maybe he could touch on the issue of information sharing as it relates to our utility customers. Dukku Lee provided a brief overview of the utility and its unique role in Anaheim. Dukku

explained that the gaining and maintaining the trust of our resident customers is critically important. They are constantly monitoring state programs or legislation that could negatively impact our customers in the privacy area. Also, he mentioned that we do get request from vendors seeking customer information and we do not give out that information. Steve Faessel asked Dukku about the Latino outreach meeting and if those still occur. Dukku mentioned that they still have the Latino utility coalition and it meets annually now. The group provides valuable input to the utility on how to better outreach and improve services for our Latino clients. Mike Matsuda thanked Dukku for their support of the youth mentoring program – AIME and mentioned that AUHSD has 25 paid internships within the City of Anaheim. Mayor Tait reiterated that the AIME program is a valuable mentoring initiative and it could be a key aspect to this initiative as well.

Mayor Tait then introduced Theresa Bass from the Clerk's Office. Theresa provided a brief summary of the Clerk's role in fostering a connection between residents and their government. She outlined all of the tools used during the election season and the availability of multiple languages for all of their materials. They provide translation services available for council meetings and other key meetings as requested by the community. Steve Faessel mentioned that the Clerk also runs a very active passport program that has become very crowded in recent years and is an important service to our community. Also commended the Clerk's office for being present at community events and other functions in order to better connect with the community.

V. NEW STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

Mayor Tait mentioned that now he would like to shift towards hearing about new ideas or recommendations. At the next meeting he would like to consider voting on some new ideas as proposed by city staff or task force members. He mentioned that Kindness is a welcoming message and that we are focused on being a city of kindness and building up our social infrastructure. He discussed the program in the 1980's where families would adopt Vietnamese refugees and help them integrate into our society. He asked if those type of programs still exist and if there is a need for volunteer families to sign up. Glen Peterson mentioned that they don't use the term "adopt" anymore when referring to the program, but that it does still exist. They now have "Good Neighbor Teams" that volunteer to help refugee programs. They do need volunteers, but not sure how many refugees will be coming due to uncertainty in federal policies. Mayor Tait mentioned that perhaps we can put the word out to our community that volunteers are needed for that program. Allison Edwards mentioned that it would be a good idea to explore the trauma around immigration since that seems to be a very real issue.

Deputy Chief Cahill mentioned that we may want to seek out academics who study these issues and see if they can guide the task force with some ideas on how to move forward. Glen Peterson made a comment that World Relief does process U Visas regularly and that the APD have been very responsive to those requests.

Mayor Tait provided some closing thoughts and his hope that we can begin deciding on recommendations at the next two meetings. Councilmember Moreno asked if we can invite some academics to the next meeting to address the task force. He also wanted to potentially discuss the role that youth play in this issue. Many youth have the burden of brokering and navigating the system on behalf of their parents.

Brent Dennis mentioned that with the new Boards and Commissions coming online shortly, perhaps those new members could be selected with an eye toward this issue. He also mentioned that the City could use the Sister City Commission to look at new potential partnerships with other diverse and multicultural communities that could have a connection with Anaheim. Dukku Lee mentioned that the Utility has an idea for a new resident welcome kit that could be helpful to our immigrant community. The kit could introduce the Hi Neighbor program and kick start that program again. Mayor Tait agreed that perhaps we can relaunch the Hi Neighbor program with a new focus on immigrants.

VI. TASK FORCE WORK, GOALS & OBJECTIVES AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Tait reiterated that he hopes to receive some recommendations at the next couple of meetings in order to start deciding on ideas to move forward. He mentioned that for the next meeting, Friday seem to work best. The group agreed that Friday April 28th was the best date for the next meeting. Allison Edwards suggested that staff could reach out to USC's institute for Immigrant Integration to see if we can get a speaker to address the task force.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tait adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.