

Resolve 4-16/17

Amended to include the language describing the Office as, *Serving Immigrants, People of Color and Other Underserved Populations* (the “Office”): 7-2 (Thibodeau, Ray) on 12/19/2016

Passage: 9-0 on 12/19/2016

Effective 12/29/2016

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)  
BELINDA S. RAY (1)  
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)  
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)  
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
PIOUS ALI (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE FUTURE  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, Portland has been a city of immigrants who have contributed greatly to the vitality and success of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to ensure the vibrancy of Portland’s economy and that employers will want to locate and stay in Portland, employers must be able to hire a diverse work force; and

**WHEREAS**, our community members must be employed on a pathway to their highest potential so that the city can remain attractive for new residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Portland employers are frequently unable to fill vacant positions; and

**WHEREAS**, many immigrants and people of color need improved access to skills training and job opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration is an important part of an economic growth strategy for Portland, and

**WHEREAS**, improving immigrant integration is critical to ensure Portland’s work force and vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council set as one of its 2016 goals to evaluate whether the City should establish an office focused on integrating immigrants into the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Committee has held six (6) public hearings, heard from service providers, community groups and individuals, examined comparable northeastern cities, researched best practices from around the country, and held a public conference on the topic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is clear consensus among the groups heard from and from the Economic Development Committee that the City has a role to play in convening service providers to strengthen communication and collaboration; ensure capacity across the system; collect and share impact data; and better identify and address gaps on an ongoing basis;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Portland City Council hereby endorses the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity: *Serving Immigrants, People of Color and Other Underserved Populations* (the “Office”) with the following mission:

To convene and leverage public and private partners to assure optimal communication and collaboration, so that immigrants, people of color and other underserved populations have access to jobs and related support services, and economic opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council hereby endorses the following:

- That the City Manager hire a director who will undertake the following goals:
  - convene community resources to improve coordination, communication and collaboration and avoid or decrease any duplication of services;
  - create a common data collection tool;
  - link employees more systematically with job seekers, and job seekers with necessary training;
  - collaborate with partners to ensure ongoing intern, apprentice, and mentorship opportunities; and
  - seek grant funding for additional staff for the future Office.