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Public Invited to Participate in Drafting Plan to Help Immigrants and Refugees

FIVE COMMUNITY FORUMS WILL BE HELD TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT NEEDS OF NEW AMERICANS

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego will hold a series of five community forums focused on connecting new Americans to community resources so that they can fully participate in civic life, access public resources and contribute their skills. The events are part of [Welcoming San Diego](#), a multi-sector effort to advance the civic, social and economic integration of immigrants and refugees.

“San Diego benefits from having a vibrant, inclusive and safe binational region that attracts families and businesses,” said Joel Day, Executive Director of the City’s Human Relations Commission and International Affairs Board. “Through the Welcoming San Diego program, we can help immigrants and refugees succeed in their new home, and allow San Diego to continue to flourish.”

The public is invited to take part in these forums and join San Diego elected officials, educators and business representatives in developing a strategic plan that will help welcome and integrate immigrants and refugees into the community. Topics of discussion will include civic engagement, economic and educational opportunity, access to services and safe and connected communities.

The five community forums, hosted by the San Diego Unified School District, include:

- Monday, May 7, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Mira Mesa High School, 10510 Marauder Way, San Diego 92126
- Wednesday, May 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Kearny Mesa High School, 1954 Komet Way, San Diego 92111
- Friday, May 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Madison High School, 4833 Doliva Drive, San Diego 92117
- Saturday, May 12, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Crawford High School, 4191 Colts Way, San Diego 92115
- Thursday, May 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Morse High School, 6905 Skyline Drive, San Diego 92114

Language interpretation and refreshments will be available at all forums.

Additional forums will be announced in other areas of the City throughout May and June.

The strategic planning, public outreach and research process will culminate in a multi-year blueprint to institutionalize efforts of immigrant integration in local communities. It will also develop concrete strategies and recommendations to maximize the contributions of the immigrant and refugee community in San Diego. The final report and recommendations will be delivered to the Mayor and City Council later this fall.

Approximately 300 people attended the kickoff meeting on Feb. 2, 2018, held at the San Diego Community Concourse.

Welcoming San Diego is a partnership between the City of San Diego, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Economic Development Corp. and other non-governmental institutions and advocacy groups. Visit www.welcomingsd.org for more information.

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