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**Port Commissioners unveil ‘Welcoming Port’ policy**

*Resolution will increase engagement with, and support for, immigrant and refugee communities*

**SEATTLE**—The Port of Seattle Commission introduced a resolution establishing a ‘Welcoming Port Policy Directive’ that seeks to increase engagement with, and support for, immigrant and refugee communities by Port staff. As our region’s global gateway, the Port of Seattle is in the unique position to improve opportunities and create services for those members of our community affected by recent national policy changes.

“Engaging with people from around the world is essential to the success of the Port of Seattle, both morally and economically – from the international travelers who use our airport to the goods shipped through our container terminals or our air cargo facilities to the thousands of immigrants who work at or near the Port,” said Commission President Courtney Gregoire. “Today’s action is the logical next step for the Port’s ongoing local and national leadership on these issues, and we strongly believe that the Port can be safe, secure, and comply with all federal law, while simultaneously supporting the safety, inclusion and sense of welcoming for all members of our community.”

Since President Trump’s Executive Order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries was put into effect last year, the Port of Seattle has been increasing its efforts to support and protect the rights and quality of life of immigrants, refugees, and foreign visitors.

The Welcoming Port Policy Directive includes the following five goals:

- 1) Beyond what is required by local, state and federal law, the Port will not deny anyone services based on immigration status.
- 2) Beyond what is required by local, state, and federal law, the Port prohibits any Port employees, including law enforcement officers, to ask about place of birth, citizenship or immigration status or collect information on place of birth, citizenship or immigration status.

- 3) Beyond what is required by local, state, and federal law, the Port will not use its own resources to facilitate the enforcement of civil immigration law.
- 4) The Port strives to make all visitors to its facilities to feel welcome, safe, and able to access services, benefits, and opportunities.
- 5) The Port remains committed to engaging and collaborating with local immigrant and refugee community stakeholders and advocates and with community-based organizations, and to continue identifying new or expanded opportunities for effective partnerships.

In order to achieve the five goals, the Commission will direct the Port's Executive Director to undertake a number of steps by the end of the year, including, with caveats:

- Not requiring disclosure of place of birth, citizenship or immigration status;
- Strive to provide free interpretation and translation services in the top six languages identified by King County;
- Not initiating police action solely on citizenship or immigration status, or facilitating the civil enforcement of federal immigration law;
- Working in collaboration with local refugee resettlement organizations;
- Participating in the "Red, White and Blue – Time for Citizenship" initiative.

### **About the Port of Seattle**

Founded in 1911, The Port owns and operates Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, two cruise ship terminals, Fishermen's Terminal—home of the North Pacific fishing fleet, one grain terminal, a public cargo terminal, four public marinas, and manages a number of real estate assets for financial return and economic advantage. The port's operations currently help create nearly 200,000 jobs and \$7 billion in wages throughout the region. Over the next 19 years, the port's "Century Agenda" seeks to create an additional 100,000 jobs through economic growth while becoming the nation's leading green and energy-efficient port. Learn more at [www.portseattle.org](http://www.portseattle.org).

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