

IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

REPORT AND ACTION PLAN
2008

May 28, 2008

**Emily Yim, Director
Office of Neighborhoods & Community Affairs**



Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	3
Executive Summary	4
Language and Cultural Barriers	6
(Access to Programs and Services)	
Fear and Distrust.....	7
(Community Engagement)	
Inaccurate Perceptions and Information.....	8
(Education and Partnerships)	
Next Steps.....	9
Glossary.....	10
Attachments	
Lynnwood Demographic Trend Summary Report	12

Acknowledgement

The Immigration Task Force Members were required to have a direct and local connection to Lynnwood by either living and or working in the city.

*Definitions are included in the glossary.

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Dave Gilbertson

Task Force Member and
Member of The South Park Advisory Group* (City of Seattle)

Maribel Peralez

Task Force Member and
Co-owner of Las Americas Business Center*

Zoila Saritama

Task Force Member and
Executive Director of La Esperanza*

Gloria Sepulveda

Task Force Member and
Member of (FASC) Families Advocating for Students of Color* (Edmonds School District)

Shirley Sutton

Task Force Member and
Executive Director of Equity and Diversity Affairs* (Edmonds Community College)

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Don Gough

CITY COUNCIL

Council President Loren Simmonds

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Emily Yim, Director, Task Force Member

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Jensen, Police Chief, Task Force Member

Karen Manser, Deputy Chief, Task Force Member

NEIGHBORHOOD AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMISSION*

Sandy Wong, Chair

Reverend Paul Sundberg, Vice Chair, Task Force Member and Pastor of Trinity
Lutheran Church

Perla Sanchez, Commissioner

Lito Adriana, (Past Commissioner)

Juan Peralez, (Past Commissioner)

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RESOURCES

Officer Americo Carnavali, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE)*

Henry Cruz, Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs*

Maria Garcia, Lynnwood Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)*

Pramila Jayapal, Hate Free Zone*

Will Pittz and Deanna Knutson, Washington CAN (Community Action Network)*

Michael Rourke, City of Lynnwood City Attorney

Executive Summary

Introduction

In the last three decades there has been an unprecedented growth of the ethnic population in Lynnwood. According to the US Census, in 1990 Lynnwood's ethnic demographic was 11% (4,145), in 2000 it jumped to 26% (11,001), and in 2007 it was estimated to be 32% (15,244) of its total population.

As the face of Lynnwood changes to reflect its rich diversity, it is important that the city is responsive and committed to understanding the concerns and needs of its immigrant community.

In 2007, Washington CAN (Community Action Network), a statewide citizen's action network, along with several residents requested the Mayor's Office address their concerns with the Lynnwood Police Department's (LPD) engagement with Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE). Issues and concerns from the Hispanic Immigrant community were presented that characterized the LPD with enforcing immigration with ICE to actively seek out and deport illegal residents on the sole basis of immigration status.

As a result of this request, the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission adopted a motion to have the Mayor's Office create an Immigration Task Force comprised primarily of community members to deliver actionable recommendations to the commission and Mayor to address this issue. The first meeting was kicked off on December 12, 2007 with the goal to deliver the final report on March 12, 2008.

However, the task force felt that the delivery date of March 12th, 2008 was not enough time to provide a thorough report on this complex issue and with approval from the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission agreed to deliver their report at the May 7th, 2008 meeting.

Key findings of the task force were categorized into three main topic areas. These main areas are:

1. Language and Cultural Barriers
2. Fear and Distrust
3. Inaccurate Perceptions and Information

The task force met monthly for two to three hours each evening and engaged in in-depth dialogue with its listed resources (ICE, Washington CAN, DSHS, etc.) to identify common themes, broad and general issues, and most importantly, action items to address these challenges.

Purpose and Scope of the Immigration Task Force

The purpose and scope of the Immigration Task Force was to develop actionable items that will encourage mutual understanding and trust between the community and LPD, provide input based on facts and best practices, as well as attend all meetings and present the final recommendations to the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission and the Mayor.

The task force was carefully created with input from the immigrant community as to whom they wanted represented and also included participation from the LPD and Administration. One of the requirements to be on the task force was that the individual had to have a direct and local connection to the city by either living and or working in Lynnwood. The recommended task force members were submitted to the Mayor's Office for final approval.

The Task Force consisted of: Dave Gilbertson, Member of the Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Board and Member of the South Park Action Agenda; Maribel Peralez, co-owner of Las Americas Business Center; Zoila Saritama, Executive Director of La Esperanza; Gloria Sepulveda, Member of Families Advocating for Students of Color (FASC); Shirley Sutton, Executive Director of Equity and Diversity Affairs for Edmonds Community College; Reverend Paul Sundberg, Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission member, and Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. The task force also included Lynnwood Police Department's Steve Jensen, Police Chief; and Karen Manser, Deputy Police Chief.

Key Findings

The Task Force's first key issue was **inaccurate information** in the community about the role and responsibility of the LPD and its participation with ICE. Some of the misperceptions were as follows:

- LPD works closely with ICE to actively seek out and deport illegal residents on the sole basis of immigration status for minor traffic offenses.
- LPD is working with ICE to arrest and get immigrants deported who go to Lynnwood's Courthouse to pay traffic tickets.
- ICE has office space at the LPD to conduct non-criminal investigation work.
- The LPD should not be called because they will coordinate with ICE to have you and or your family or friends deported.
- The LPD has been working with ICE to implement ICE raids in Lynnwood.

In addition, the LPD providing courtesy office space to ICE officers to work on criminal investigations continues to create a misperception among immigrant communities that LPD is taking on the work of ICE. After much discussion and clarification with the LPD and ICE, all of the above misperceptions were determined to be false but have resulted in the task force's second key issue which is **fear and distrust** in the immigrant community. The fear and distrust can be primarily attributable to their third issue which is **communication and cultural barriers**.

Unfortunately, this has led to further polarization and isolation of members of the immigrant community resulting in a safety issue where in cases of emergency, domestic violence, or crime, some will choose not to call the police or fire for help as a result of their underlying fear of deportation.

Goals

- To turn Communication and Cultural Barriers into opportunities to **improve access to city programs and services.**
- To turn Fear and Distrust into opportunities for **increased civic engagement and participation.**
- To turn Inaccurate Perceptions and Information into opportunities to **increase education and strengthen partnerships.**

Language and Cultural Barriers

Improve access to city programs and services

1st Issue: Communication and Cultural Barriers

One of the major challenges for immigrant communities is communication and cultural barriers. The recommendation is to make city services and resources easily available and understandable for all Lynnwood residents including those with limited English proficiency. The Edmonds School District has identified the top 5 primary languages used in the city, and the City of Lynnwood recognizes them to be Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Ukrainian and Arabic.

Translation and interpretation services will indeed bear a cost to the city and budget implications will have to be further explored and coordinated with each department. However, it is also recommended to utilize the resources of city staff and community residents who may be more effective in delivering the message as a trusted and respected community leader, in addition to professional services to address the issues of communication and cultural barriers. The concept of a partnership with Edmonds Community College and their growing International Student Program who may be able to utilize their language skills was also recommended.

CHALLENGES	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS
<p style="text-align: center;">1ST ISSUE COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL BARRIERS</p> <p>Short Term Goal: <i>A goal that may be achievable in 6 months.</i></p> <p>Long Term Goal: <i>A goal that may be achievable in greater than 6 months or an ongoing goal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of critical city documents into primary languages other than English. This can include compliant forms, notices of eligibility, notices of availability of free language assistance, information on city services, and emergency messages. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Utilize the Language Line (interpretation phone services). Employee or resident language capacity to assist residents with city services and programs. Examples include the permit center, front desk of city hall, police, fire or courts. <i>Confidential, sensitive, complex, formal and or technical services should be outsourced to certified professionals.</i> (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation services to be made available for primary languages other than English for all or portions of city-wide sponsored community and outreach events and programs such as Lynnwood University, Visioning, Citizens Academy. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Provide training in primary languages in addition to English on immigrant rights, LPD roles and responsibilities in partnership with community organizations. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Creation of a full or partial bi-lingual city website to be made available in primary languages in addition to English which can target explanation of department services and programs. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase and continue to provide diversity training to all city employees, including city leadership, on an annual basis and assess the quality and effectiveness of the program. (short term goal)

Fear and Distrust

Increase civic engagement and participation

2nd Issue: Fear and Distrust

In addition to the language and cultural barriers, unfortunately, many immigrants are fleeing persecution, violence, and or a government with a history of human rights abuse and torture. Therefore, trust in government or even those in uniforms is a difficult challenge to overcome.

Fear and distrust can be fatal. Particularly in emergency situations where people will either not dial 911 or open their doors once they see someone in uniform and badge despite the dangerous situation they may be in. This causes a community safety issue and an environment where city personnel cannot perform their duties.

As a result, the City of Lynnwood implemented an (ONA) *Outreach to New Americans Program* that targeted immigrant communities to help inform them of the roles and responsibilities of emergency service providers. The LPD and the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission co-sponsored this four-week course on public safety for those with limited English skills. The aim of this program was to familiarize new Americans with what they can expect from 911, Police, Fire and Medics and the Court. This program ran for one year and due to lack of participation has not been implemented since.

The recommendation is to continue the city's effort such as ONA to engage and promote civic participation of the immigrant community through a variety of methods which include dissemination of information in an informal setting and in a non-intrusive way, active recruitment of bi-lingual and diverse staff to better reflect the demographics of the city. The goal is to be pro-active.

CHALLENGES	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS
2ND ISSUE FEAR & DISTRUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify existing venues where immigrant communities congregate to pro-actively introduce city staff as resources and share information in a non-intrusive manner. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase recruitment for city employment and boards and commissions to better reflect the demographics of the city. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Explore incentive based pay and recruitment efforts for bi-lingual staff who can speak primary languages other than English. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to host and increase community forums but in trusted and safe locations such as faith based environments to address concerns and questions. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Provide LPD report on traffic stops to address racial profiling fear and distrust, and invite immigrant community members for police car rides once trust is built. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Explore with Edmonds Community College, Edmonds School District or other arts organizations to develop theatrical vignettes related to how police and fire services are provided. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and help sponsor a Cinco de Mayo festival, Multicultural Family Fair or other ethnic based events where information about police, safety, and other city services can informally be distributed in a positive and informal environment. (long term goal)

	goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support partnerships that provide ESL, citizenship instructions and other resources for Lynnwood immigrants. (short term goal)
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Inaccurate Perceptions and Information

Increase education and strengthen partnerships

3rd Issue: Inaccurate Perceptions and Information

One of the most critical challenges as identified by the task force is addressing the issue of inaccurate perceptions and information in the community about the role of the LPD. For example, in Lynnwood there was information being passed around stating that there was going to be an ICE raid that the LPD was largely engaged in at the local Fred Meyers on 44th St.

However, after investigation it was found that there was no raid but a convention attended by (ATF) the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms at the local Embassy Suites Hotel in Lynnwood. This inaccuracy caused distress, fear, and deepened the distrust between the LPD and Hispanic immigrant community based on false information.

The recommendation is to identify and work with trusted community leaders within the various immigrant communities and help disseminate accurate information. This model follows the concept of "Natural Leaders" as identified and implemented by the Edmonds School District. The Natural Leaders are individuals within an ethnic group who can speak the language and have the cultural competency to serve as a cultural broker or liaison between the institution (school district) and the target audience (parents with language and cultural barriers). Natural Leaders for the city could also be volunteer based and can either be city staff and or community residents or partners.

CHALLENGES	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS
3RD ISSUE INACCURATE PERCEPTIONS & INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and work with trusted community leaders and local non-profit agencies (such as Washington CAN and NW Immigrants Rights) to disseminate accurate information about the role of police and city services. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Highlight positive stories and information where city personnel worked with various ethnic groups and promote it via media streams. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Provide multi-lingual newsletters and portions of citizen education awareness efforts such as Citizens Academy, Lynnwood University, and Visioning in primary languages in addition to English about the roles of city personnel. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with ethnic owned businesses to disseminate information about upcoming meetings to address concerns and questions of the immigrant community. This venue can also be used to recruit and inform of city services to ethnic owned businesses. (long term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast presentations and conduct interviews on the City of

	<p>Lynnwood television channel aimed at providing immigrant communities information on city services in primary languages in addition to English. (City of Lynnwood television channel anticipated to start in January 2009). (long term goal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop Public Service Announcements (PSA) to promote better understanding. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the opportunity to work with the Leadership Snohomish County to implement an actionable item as a potential project. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase education about the roles and responsibility of the LPD verses ICE and in what ways they partner together. This should include positive benefits to public safety as well. (short term goal) <input type="checkbox"/> Increase education about victim rights and protection regardless of immigration status. (long term goal)
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Next Steps

In conclusion, the Immigration Task Force felt it was critical that along with these actionable recommendations, that the Mayor’s Office and the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission work within their organizational structure to focus on the progress and implementation of these action items.

Also, this group (Mayor and Commission) should coordinate and solicit feedback from key city staff, the immigrant community and other community and external partners on the effectiveness of these recommendations and make adjustments as appropriate to reflect the rapidly changing demographics of the City of Lynnwood.

Next Steps:

- Present this report to the Mayor and Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission on May 7th, 2008 at 6:00PM at City Hall.
- Immigration Task Force Members to coordinate with the Neighborhoods and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission on public outreach and final update meeting date/time for May 2008.

Glossary

Equity and Diversity Affairs A division of Edmonds Community College, the Equity and Diversity Center provides one-on-one support and encouragement to students and orientation to other college services such as financial aid, tutoring, student employment and counseling.

Families Advocating for Students of Color (FASC) A grassroots organization committed to student advocacy, in partnership with Edmonds School District (ESD) to ensure equitable access to programs and resources for all students.

Hate Free Zone A Seattle-based non-profit that advances the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels by building power within immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies.

Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) Created in March 2003, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative branch of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The agency was created after 9/11, by combining the law enforcement arms of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the former U.S. Customs Service, to more effectively enforce our immigration and customs laws.

Las Americas Business Center A Lynnwood based Business Service Center providing services to Spanish-speaking and bilingual businesses and individuals in the Northwest.

La Esperanza A treatment agency dedicated to serving Spanish-speaking and bilingual adults, youth, and families with substance abuse.

Long Term Goal A goal that may be achievable in greater than 6 months and/or an ongoing goal.

Lynnwood Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) A government human service department focused on improving the quality of life for individuals and families in need, and helping people achieve safe, self-sufficient, healthy, and secure lives.

Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Advisory Commission

Mission – The commission is hereby declared to be an advisory body of the city of Lynnwood whose duties shall be to monitor demographic trends in our city and to identify and recommend to the mayor and city council ways to encourage mutual understanding among our citizens about the increasing demographic diversity of our city through, but not limited to:

1. Connecting and partnering with neighborhood, community, educational, business and social service groups and organizations;
2. Sponsoring city-wide, neighborhood and community events, which would include opportunities for heritage and cultural events; and
3. Programs for engaging citizens and community leaders in a holistic approach including dialogue, education, and training about diversity issues.

Outreach to New Americans Program (ONA) A city sponsored program that targeted immigrant communities to help inform them of the roles and responsibilities of emergency service providers. The LPD and the Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Commission co-sponsored this four-week course on public safety for those with limited English skills. The aim of this program was to familiarize new Americans with what they can expect from 911, Police, Fire and Medics and the Court.

Primary Languages The top 5 used languages as identified by Edmonds School District (ESD). Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Ukrainian, Arabic.

Short Term Goal A goal that may be achievable within 6 months.

South Park Advisory Group Beginning in April 2006, a group of community and business leaders, community-based organizations, residents and youth worked with city staff to develop the South Park Action Agenda (SPAA). The South Park Advisory Group continues the work of implementing the Action Agenda and maintaining a positive community/government working relationship between the city and the residents of South Park.

Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) was created by a Governor's Executive Order and established by statute in 1971. As mandated by the state legislature, the Commission's functions are to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community.

Washington Community Action Network (CAN) A statewide, grassroots lobbying organization supporting a coalition of groups including labor, senior, faith, and community organizations. With over 50,000 members it is the largest consumer advocacy group in the state working on a range of issues with the broad aim of bringing about greater economic justice in Washington State and the country.



Date: 01/10/08
 Current Geography Selection: (1 Selected) Places: Lynnwood
 Your title for this geography: Lynnwood Place 2008

Demographic Trend Summary Report

Population Demographics

	1990		2000		2007		2012		Percent Change	
	Census		Census		Estimate		Projection		1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
Total Population	29,377		33,835		36,432		38,204		15.2%	4.9%
Total Households	11,610		13,322		15,086		16,220		14.7%	7.5%

Gender:

	1990		2000		2007		2012		1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
Male	14,319	48.7%	16,466	48.7%	17,816	48.9%	18,734	49.0%	15.0%	5.2%
Female	15,058	51.3%	17,369	51.3%	18,616	51.1%	19,469	51.0%	15.4%	4.6%

Population by Race/Ethnicity

	1990		2000		2007		2012		Percent Change	
	Census		Census		Estimate		Projection		1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
White	26,090	88.8%	25,173	74.4%	24,756	68.0%	25,390	66.5%	-3.5%	2.6%
Black	556	1.9%	1,096	3.2%	1,221	3.4%	1,216	3.2%	97.2%	-0.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	317	1.1%	350	1.0%	314	0.9%	296	0.8%	10.3%	-5.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,158	7.4%	4,792	14.2%	6,847	18.8%	7,560	19.8%	122.1%	10.4%
Some Other Race	261	0.9%	953	2.8%	1,272	3.5%	1,647	4.3%	264.9%	29.4%
Two or More Races			1,472	4.4%	2,022	5.6%	2,095	5.5%		3.6%
Hispanic Ethnicity	853	2.9%	2,338	6.9%	3,568	9.8%	4,341	11.4%	174.1%	21.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	28,525	97.1%	31,497	93.1%	32,864	90.2%	33,862	88.6%	10.4%	3.0%

Population by Age

	1990		2000		2007		2012		Percent Change	
	Census		Census		Estimate		Projection		1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
0 to 4	2,385	8.1%	2,388	7.1%	2,228	6.1%	2,256	5.9%	0.1%	1.2%
5 to 14	3,854	13.1%	4,495	13.3%	4,132	11.3%	3,952	10.3%	16.6%	-4.4%
15 to 19	1,837	6.3%	2,372	7.0%	2,551	7.0%	2,541	6.7%	29.1%	-0.4%
20 to 24	2,566	8.7%	2,452	7.2%	2,959	8.1%	3,148	8.2%	-4.5%	6.4%
25 to 34	6,140	20.9%	5,246	15.5%	5,029	13.8%	5,047	13.2%	-14.6%	0.4%
35 to 44	4,501	15.3%	5,663	16.7%	5,171	14.2%	4,722	12.4%	25.8%	-8.7%
45 to 54	2,995	10.2%	4,450	13.2%	5,370	14.7%	5,598	14.7%	48.6%	4.2%

55 to 64	2,196	7.5%	2,773	8.2%	4,267	11.7%	5,319	13.9%	26.3%	24.7%
65 to 74	1,712	5.8%	2,030	6.0%	2,524	6.9%	3,332	8.7%	18.5%	32.0%
75 to 84	868	3.0%	1,353	4.0%	1,368	3.8%	1,477	3.9%	55.9%	8.0%
85+	323	1.1%	613	1.8%	827	2.3%	804	2.1%	90.2%	-2.9%

Median Age:

Total Population	31.3		34.9		37.7		39.7		11.5%	5.4%
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Households by Income

	1990		2000		2007		2012		Percent Change	
	Census		Census		Estimate		Projection		1990 to 2000	2007 to 2012
\$0 - \$15,000	2,224	19.2%	1,727	13.0%	1,562	10.4%	1,491	9.2%	-22.4%	-4.6%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	2,348	20.2%	1,612	12.1%	1,481	9.8%	1,478	9.1%	-31.4%	-0.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	2,011	17.3%	1,918	14.4%	1,693	11.2%	1,457	9.0%	-4.6%	-14.0%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	2,653	22.9%	2,248	16.9%	2,433	16.1%	2,488	15.3%	-15.3%	2.3%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1,778	15.3%	3,035	22.8%	3,073	20.4%	3,182	19.6%	70.7%	3.6%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	419	3.6%	1,583	11.9%	2,292	15.2%	2,393	14.8%	277.4%	4.4%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	111	1.0%	1,052	7.9%	1,964	13.0%	2,726	16.8%	845.0%	38.8%
\$150,000 +	65	0.6%	147	1.1%	587	3.9%	1,005	6.2%	127.1%	71.2%
Average Hhld Income	\$35,050		\$50,260		\$59,920		\$65,605		43.4%	9.5%
Median Hhld Income	\$30,606		\$43,509		\$52,600		\$58,534		42.2%	11.3%
Per Capita Income	\$13,972		\$19,789		\$26,306		\$29,376		41.6%	11.7%

Current year data is for the year **2007**, 5 year projected data is for the year **2012**. More About Our Data.
Demographic data © 2007 by Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions.

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