RESOLUTION NO. 41757

BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS BUSHNELL, DIAZ, SADALGE, AND WALKER

A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds in the amount of $20,000, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest, for their Phone Call Fund and to support their Welcome Center services.

WHEREAS Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest ("AIDNW") is a non-profit that serves immigrants detained in the Pacific Northwest through assistance, advocacy, and increased awareness, and

WHEREAS through hands-on immigrant assistance programs, AIDNW's small staff and over 200 volunteers address the needs of detained persons held inside the Northwest ICE Processing Center ("NWIPC"), as well as upon release, and the need for support of detainees within NWIPC is rapidly increasing, and

WHEREAS according to Congresswoman Emily Randall, the number of detainees held at NWIPC, which has a capacity of 1,575, has increased significantly from about 700 in November 2024 to 1,300 in April 2025, and 1,562 as of August 1st, and

WHEREAS detainees are having to stay longer in the NWIPC, with certain detainees no longer eligible for a bond hearing as they fight deportation proceedings in court, and

WHEREAS this request includes $8,000 to AIDNW for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the NWIPC, and

WHEREAS the NWIPC requires detainees to utilize a private, for-profit phone service to place phone calls, and AIDNW receives $2,700 a month from a

private donor for this program, but due to the increased population in the facility, these funds are exhausted by the fifth day of the month, and

WHEREAS these allocated funds would be used by AIDNW to distribute phone money to low-income detainees in $20 per month increments which can be used by detainees to call friends, family, and legal advocates, and

WHEREAS communication with the outside world is crucial for incarcerated people, which includes individuals facing deportation while detained in immigration detention centers, who do not have the right to court-appointed counsel, and

WHEREAS having the ability to make a phone call in a detention center is essential for a variety of reasons, including an individual's need to secure legal representation or advice, gather evidence to support their defenses against deportation, and receive emotional support from family and friends, and

WHEREAS detained immigrants with legal representation are ten times more likely to win their immigration cases compared to those who lack counsel, and are seven times more likely to be released from custody than those without counsel, and

WHEREAS in some cases, detainees can contact Northwest Immigrant Rights Project ("NWIRP") for free, but not all detainees have NWIRP lawyers, and low-income individuals detained in the NWIPC risk being unable to afford to pay for phone access and face reduced access to legal support and poor mental and emotional health impacts from isolation, and

WHEREAS this request includes $12,000 to AIDNW to support running their Welcome Center, as individuals released from the NWIPC are not offered resources to communicate with friends or family to pick them up, arrange transportation, or find housing, and

WHEREAS the NWIPC is in an isolated location without resources, and this Welcome Center is located immediately outside the NWIPC and is staffed primarily with volunteers who warmly greet released immigrants and asylum seekers, and offer food, charge electronics like phones, and assist individuals in arranging where to go, and

WHEREAS in 2025, 59 percent of individuals released from NWIPC were not from our region, and without the Welcome Center there to help connect these individuals to their friends and family, and to provide rides to places like the airport or train station, these individuals could end up isolated or homeless in the Tideflats, and

WHEREAS AIDNW will also assist local individuals in reuniting with friends and family, connecting to host homes if eligible, or transporting individuals to shelters, and

WHEREAS AIDNW has also served as the approved party to receive individuals who qualify for the Franco Qualified Representative Program, a nationwide program to provide necessary services to detained individuals who have been found mentally incompetent to represent themselves, and

WHEREAS the compassionate support that AIDNW volunteers and staff offer to immigrants in detention, and at their release, relieves isolation and anxiety, connects them to community resources, and provides hope for new lives, and

WHEREAS, at the August 26, 2025, Study Session, Council Member Diaz shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-time use of $20,000 from the Council Contingency Fund, to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest, for their Phone Call Fund and to support their Welcome Center services, and

WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of adopting the budget, and

WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the foregoing Recitals are hereby adopted as the City Council's legislative findings.

Section 2. That one-time funding in the amount of $20,000, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of supporting the Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest ("AIDNW"), Phone Call Fund and to support their Welcome Center services.

Section 3. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to confirm deliverables with AIDNW for the purposes hereinabove enumerated, and document as appropriate.

Adopted _____

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Deputy City Attorney