



# Latino Engagement Taskforce (LET) Update

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# Overview

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- LET is a city initiative that started in December 2015 to assist Commerce City in building a stronger and more inclusive Latino community.
- Cultivando, a local nonprofit, was contracted by the city to develop, support, and facilitate LET.
- LET cohorts to date:
  - Cohort #1: 2015 - 2016
  - Cohort #2: 2017 - 2018
  - Cohort #3: 2020 - 2021

# Objectives

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- Identify issues/topics of interest to the Latino community
- Document real and perceived barriers to participation with the city
- Recognize how Latinos within the city prefer to receive information and increase effective communication
- Identify policy opportunities to increase access and participation of the Latino community in Commerce City services, programs, events, etc.
- Continue to maintain positive relationships and participation from former LET participants



# Process

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- LET Composition/ Meetings
  - 10 Latino Commerce City community members who are mono-or bilingual Spanish speakers.
  - Cultivando identified participants through a screening process with a focus on collaboration and building positive, constructive, forward-facing relationships with the city.
  - Eight 90-minute virtual monthly meetings. Three of the eight meetings included former LET members.
  - Meetings were conducted in Spanish, using translation for English speakers, if and when needed.
  - Mid-course survey to receive feedback from participants

# Reporting

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- City liaison provided feedback from meetings to city staff and answered any city-related questions from participants.
- Cultivando staff, with the help of the city liaison, completed an assessment report for cohort #3, provided copies to city management, and City Council.
- City management will review recommendations, working with the taskforce and city council to continue implementation of strategies and timeframes.





# LET Outcomes



# Outcomes: Cohort #1 & #2

- The city hired more bilingual/bicultural staff to work for the city and continued efforts to improve language access (i.e., front desk at the Civic Center).
  - CCPD hired at least 10 bilingual police officers.
- CCPD created a policy and trains its officers not to ask immigration status, except for a person who commits a felony.
- The city executed two telephone town halls completely in Spanish
- City Council passed a Proclamation in December 2016 supporting Commerce City as an inclusive city and welcoming all community members regardless of race, country of origin, or anything else.
- Co-development of Park and Community Safety Strategies with Community Members, Police Department and Parks and Rec staff.
  - i.e., Healthy Places efforts, meetings with CCPD

# Cohort #3

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- Cohort #3 met eight times from October 16 2020 – June 18, 2021
- Meeting Topics: Building Safety and Code Enforcement, CDBG programming, City Clerk's office and City Council meetings, city involvement with school districts, Commerce City Police Department, Commerce City Park and Recreation



# Cohort #3 Survey Summary

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- Participants found their experience to be very useful and informative
- Things learned while participating in the LET: the different programs and services offered through various departments
- Community members expressed the city meets some of the community needs but can improve others
- Barriers that the Latino Community faces when having specific access in the City of Commerce City: language barriers to information and bilingual staff members
- Important topics in the community: safety, trash and recycling services, programming and services offered

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Questions?

