



Latino Engagement Taskforce (L.E.T) Update

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Overview

- L.E.T 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 L.E.T.
- Three L.E.T cohorts to date:
 - Cohort #1: 2015 - 2016
 - Cohort #2: 2017 - 2018
 - Cohort #3: 2020 - 2021

Objectives

- 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 L.E.T participants



Process

- L.E.T Composition/ Meetings
 - 10-12 Latino Commerce City community members who are mono-or bilingual Spanish speakers.
 - Cultivando identifies 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 will include former L.E.T members.
 - Meetings are conducted in Spanish, using translation for English speakers, if and when needed.
 - Cristal Dukes, bilingual communication specialist serves as the city liaison

Reporting

- City liaison provides feedback from meetings to city staff and answers any city-related questions from participants.
- Cultivando staff, with the help of the city liaison, will complete an assessment report for cohort #3, provide copies to city management, and present to city council in July 2021.
- City management will review recommendations, working with the taskforce and city council to continue implementation of strategies and timeframes.



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L.E.T Outcomes



Outcomes: Cohort #1

- The city hired more bilingual/bicultural staff to work for the city (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.



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Outcomes: Cohort #2

- Continued efforts to improve language access
 - i.e., bilingual signage at city facilities, in-person pilot program for interpretation at city council meetings
- Continued engagement and communication between Commerce City and the Latino community
 - i.e., collaboration with Spanish media (events such as Movies in the Park, and press releases in Spanish)
- 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



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Current L.E.T Cohort #3

- Cohort #3 will meet for eight months: Oct. 2020 – June 2021 (Dec. is excluded due to holidays)
- The first L.E.T meeting was held on Friday, Oct. 16.
- 15 community members are part of this cohort.
- The purpose of the first meeting was to identify topics of interest; the topics will guide the next seven monthly meetings.

Cohort #3 Topics of Interest

- Understand city processes, programs, and services.
 - Active Adult Services in Spanish
 - How to keep the city clean (Neighborhood Services)
 - Additional family events
 - CCPD updates on crimes
 - How the city is handling homelessness
 - Youth projects with the city
 - Explore new communication tools
 - The relationship between the city and school districts (i.e., Adams 14)
 - Street sweeping and road maintenance (Public Works)

Questions?