

# LATINO ENGAGEMENT TASKFORCE #5



**CULTIVANDO**

Leadership • Advocacy • Collaboration



Commerce  
**CITY**

# 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
  - Cohort #4: 2022-2023
  - Cohort #5: 2023-2024



# 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.



# Outcomes of the past

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- More bilingual/bicultural staff to work for the city and continued efforts to improve language access (i.e., front desk at the Civic Center).
- Continuous improvements in CCPD
  - Increased number of bilingual staff
  - Implemented policy and training for officers: not to ask immigration status, except for a person who commits a felony.
- Proclamation Dec. 2016: Commerce City as an inclusive city and welcoming all community members regardless of race, country of origin, or anything else.
- Increase in translation services: multiple channels of communications offered in Spanish and English (i.e., City Council Meetings, Connected Newsletter, etc.)



# Process

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- Group consisted of 17 Latino Commerce City community members who are monolingual 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
- Seven 90-minute monthly meetings plus a graduation
- Meetings were conducted in Spanish, using translation for English speakers, if and when needed.



# Reporting

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- City liaison collected feedback and annotated meetings
- City staff answered city-related questions from LET participants
- Cultivando staff and city liaison completed an assessment report for cohort #5



# LET 5

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LET 5 Graduation took place on Friday, June 7  
11 members pictured out of 17 total graduates

# LET 5

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Cohort #5 met eight times from Oct 2023 – June 2024

Meetings:

- 1 - Introduction
- 2 - Police Department
- 3 - Code Enforcement & Community Well-Being
- 4 - Public Works
- 5 - Energy, Equity, and the Environment (E3)
- 6 - Recreation + Tour of Bison Ridge Recreation Center
- 7 - Clerk's Office
- 8 - Graduation





# LET 5

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- Participants were grateful for this informative and engaging opportunity with the LET group.
- Some LET participants visited the Civic Center and learned about departments in the city for the first time.
- Participants provided valuable suggestions for the city to enhance communication channels between city departments and the Latino community, especially the LET participant's suggestions emphasizing the potential for building stronger relationships.
- Essential topics of conversation included pedestrian safety, trash and recycling services, city beautification, and public safety concerns



# Member Testimonials



# Recommendations

- Enhance communication
- Cultural sensitivity training
- Increase representation
- Explore youth engagement opportunities
- Increase public safety
- Additional accessibility to resources
- Expand community events and outreach

**THANK YOU!**  
***¡GRACIAS!***

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