
Report to Protocol Agenda
“Resolution affirming Dublin City as a Welcoming City”

“This Committee recommends that the City Council adopt a Dublin City version of the San Jose resolution (see attached) affirming the City as a Welcoming City and that we would circulate same to the cities with which we are twinned and have Friendship Agreements, requesting that they do the same”.

Order: Motion proposed by Cllr. D Lacey and seconded by Cllr. M Flynn. Motion agreed.

The above motion agreed at the recent Protocol Meeting proposes that Dublin City Council follows the example of San José by becoming a Welcoming City.

San José, California, our Sister City since 1986, is part of the Welcoming America organisation, a movement of inclusive communities becoming more prosperous by making everyone feel like they belong. They believe that all people, including immigrants, are valued contributors who are vital to the success of their communities and shared future.

Today, a growing number of places recognize that being welcoming leads to prosperity; Welcoming America provides the roadmap and support they need to become more welcoming toward immigrants and all residents. Launched in 2009, Welcoming America has spurred a growing movement across the United States, with one in eight Americans living in a Welcoming Community.

The American Welcoming City model conforms with Dublin City Council’s commitment to developing the City as a place where those from all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds have a sense of belonging and pride and the opportunity to contribute to every aspect of city life. It ties in with our Integration Strategy where Dublin City Council takes the lead in exploring opportunities for working on multi-agency initiatives with our many partner organisations in the City and where we try to co-ordinate the actions necessary to deliver an inclusive and intercultural city which champions diversity and where all citizens are valued equally.

A Welcoming City is one that:

- **Plans:** All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit and others, work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
- **Commits:** to institutionalise strategies ensuring the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.
- **Builds Community:** Newcomers and long-time residents find common ground and shared leadership.
- **Communicates:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voices of leaders and among residents.
- **Sustains:** Policies and practices are considered to ensure interactions between new and long-time residents remain positive ones and the community’s economic vitality remains strong.

If the above motion is agreed, Dublin City Council would adopt the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL AFFIRMING THE CITY OF DUBLIN AS A WELCOMING CITY

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, enhances the city of Dublin's ("City") cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City has long been recognised as a hospitable and welcoming place where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighbourly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants are welcome, accepted and integrated; and

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between long-time residents and foreign born community members are crucial to ensuring a welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages the business leadership, civic groups, other government agencies and community institutions and residents to join in a community-wide effort to expand prosperity and inclusion for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City is hereby affirmed as a Welcoming City, helping to unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here.

ENDS

If adopted, the necessary steps would be put in train to implement the motion.

Mary Foley
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International Relations Unit
1st June 2017