Executive Order 2016-08: An Executive Order reaffirming existing policies and providing guidance to City employees on protecting immigrants’ access to police protection and public services and establishing an “Inclusive and Equitable City Cabinet” to coordinate city efforts to protect the civil liberties and civil rights of all Seattle residents.

WHEREAS, Seattle is a welcoming city that serves and protects its residents regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, in Seattle, all people, including immigrants, are valued contributors and are vital to our shared prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Seattle fosters a culture and policy environment that makes it possible for Seattle to be a vibrant, global city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted city; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five Seattle residents is an immigrant or refugee and 129 languages are spoken in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, Washington’s population grew by 40,000 unauthorized residents between 2009 and 2014, making our state one of just six in the country with a growing unauthorized population during a time when numbers have decreased nationally; and

WHEREAS, Washington is the country’s 8th largest refugee-receiving state and a majority of the estimated 3,000 new arrivals each year are re-settled in Seattle-King County; and

WHEREAS, 100,000 Muslim residents are proud to call Washington their home and live peacefully as our neighbors, colleagues, and friends; and

WHEREAS, more than 28,000 unauthorized youth in Washington received temporary status through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and they deserve an opportunity to have a bright future and to contribute their time and talent to make Seattle a city of innovation and growth;

NOW THEREFORE, I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, Mayor of Seattle, hereby reaffirm the City’s commitment to be a welcoming city for all Seattle residents by ordering the following actions:
Section 1. City employees will not ask about immigration status. Seattle Ordinance 121063 passed in 2003 instructs all City employees to refrain from inquiring about the immigration status of any person except police officers where police officers have a reasonable suspicion that a person is committing or has committed a felony criminal-law violation.

Section 2. City employees will serve all residents and city services will be accessible to all residents, regardless of immigration status. Seattle Resolution 30672 passed in 2004 reaffirms Ordinance 121063 and states that City agencies and law enforcement cannot withhold services based on several identities, including ancestry, race, ethnicity, national origin, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender variance, marital status, physical or mental disability, or religion.

Section 3. City employees will defer detainer requests from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to King County. Because jails are in King County’s jurisdiction and enforcing civil federal immigration violations are in the purview of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, City department directors are hereby directed to comply with the City’s practice to defer to King County on all ICE detainer requests. King County Ordinance 17886 passed in 2014 clarifies that the County will only honor ICE detainer requests that are accompanied by a criminal warrant issued by a federal judge or magistrate.

Section 4. City department directors will use tools at their disposal, including meetings and trainings, to direct their staff to comply with the City’s and County’s policies described above. A communication will be issued by City departments to their staff by January 31, 2017.

Section 5. City departments will issue a letter to all contractors receiving General Fund dollars to clarify and inform about the policies described above. A communication will be issued by City departments to their contractors by January 31, 2017.

Section 6. An “Inclusive and Equitable City Cabinet” is hereby established. Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim shall lead and coordinate efforts across City departments and provide oversight and evaluation of outcomes.

a. The following Departments shall be primary members of the “Inclusive and Equitable City Cabinet”:

- Seattle Police Department
- Office of Civil Rights
- Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
- Department of Neighborhoods
- Office of Economic Development
- Office of Policy and Innovation
- City Budget Office
- Office of Intergovernmental Relations
- Department of Education and Early Learning
- Seattle Human Services Department
- Office of Labor Standards
- Seattle City Attorney’s Office (Ex-Officio)
b. The goal of the “Inclusive and Equitable City Cabinet” will be to coordinate City efforts to protect the civil liberties and civil rights of all Seattle residents and provide supportive services and information as necessary to communities of color, people with disabilities, women, LGBTQ residents, people who are low-income, immigrants and refugees in light of potential changes in Federal Government policy and operations.

Section 7. The “Inclusive and Equitable City Cabinet” is hereby directed to implement the following:

a. Develop a programmatic investment strategy for $250,000 in funding included in the 4th Quarter Supplemental Budget of 2016 to directly address the needs of unauthorized immigrant children and family members within the Seattle Public Schools system.

b. Develop a comprehensive public awareness effort around anti-hate speech and hate crimes.

c. Conduct a comprehensive review of potential implications on City Departments — policy or financial — given direction and available information about any new initiatives and intent of the incoming Presidential administration.

d. Collaborate with immigrant and refugee community stakeholders and community based organizations to identify any new or expanded efforts for partnership with the City and specifically the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and identification of priority needs.

e. Develop a forum for regional coordination with other cities in King County as well as Pierce and Snohomish Counties to share knowledge and information about the City’s efforts.

f. Develop a specific agenda and action plan for the Mayor to take to the West Coast Mayor’s Summit in San Francisco in December and to the US Conference of Mayors in Washington DC in January to build a coalition of inclusive and equitable cities in support of immigrants and their civil rights and civil liberties.

Inquiries by City departments and offices regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim at (206) 684-5360.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 2016

Edward B. Murray
Mayor of Seattle