We, the Wenatchee City Diversity Advisory Council, would like to publicly state our opposition to the executive order (EO) titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.”\(^1\) We also recommend that the Wenatchee City Council take a similar stand as the EO is contrary to our community values of equity and inclusion. The EO suspends the entire U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for at least 120 days and places a 90 day travel ban on all citizens from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan. The EO puts undue burden on some of our most vulnerable populations. As the City Diversity Advisory Council we feel it is our duty to all of our community members, including refugees and immigrants, to let them know we support them and that they are welcome in the City of Wenatchee.

Moreover, we also oppose and encourage the Wenatchee City Council to oppose the executive order (EO) titled “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements.”\(^2\) This EO mandates the building of a wall on the United States-Mexico border. This order denies the humanity of individuals and is counter to the diverse perspectives of this community. Many of our community members have family and friends in Mexico. We, the City Diversity Advisory Council, hereby stand with our diverse communities and oppose any regulations which unduly burdens or discriminates against their best interests.

We are concerned with the language and execution of the executive orders and want to remind our community that all of us in the United States, except those of Native American descent, are here because our families sought refuge and opportunities in the United States. These executive orders are contrary to the underlying principles of our democracy and our Constitution.

The Diversity Council is working on a welcoming resolution we look forward to bringing to the City Council in the near future as a follow up.

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