

September 16, 2022

Dr. Hannah Gill
Director
Latino Migration Project
3205 Fed Ex Global Education Center
301 Pittsboro Street
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3205

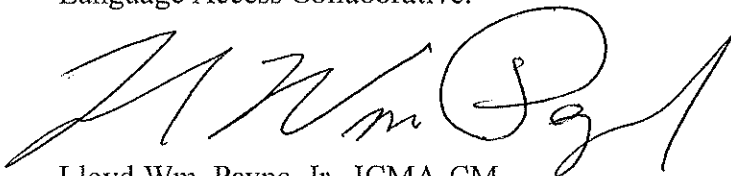
Dr. Hannah Gill,

On behalf of the City of Concord, I am pleased to provide a Letter of Direct Partnership to support and actively participate in accomplishing the deliverables outlined in the application to the Local Government Language Access Collaborative offered through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This program provides a unique opportunity for the City of Concord to continue our efforts toward fulfilling our mission and to fully embody the principles of Excellent Service by building our capacity to communicate with our residents in community languages.

The City of Concord is one of the fastest growing cities in the state and region. According to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, the City's population grew a staggering 33.1%, from 79,066 to 105,240, over the last decade. As our City grows and our constituency changes, the City of Concord is continuing to work towards a more inclusive and equitable city. I believe having committed city staff members devoted to developing a language access plan through the guidance of the Language Access Collaborative has a potential long-term positive impact on our community.

As the county seat, our City seeks to continuously position itself to keep up with and respond to the changing demographics and needs of our City. We are fortunate to partner with El Puente Hispano in this initiative. El Puente and the City of Concord have solidified an invaluable partnership through the years, working together for the good of our Hispanic and Latino communities.

The City of Concord commits to being an active, engaged partner in this collaborative work, assigning key communication staff to the project and providing any needed support to the work of this team. I hope the City and El Puente will have the opportunity to participate in the Language Access Collaborative.



Lloyd Wm. Payne, Jr., ICMA-CM
City Manager

September 21, 2022

Dr. Hannah Gill
Director
Latino Migration Project
3205 Fed Ex Global Education Center
301 Pittsboro Street
Chapel Hill NC 27599-3205

Dr. Hannah Gill,

With great pleasure, I write to support the City of Concord and El Puente Hispano's application for the 2022 – 2023 Language Access Collaborative Program. The City of Concord's leadership and staff strive to create a community where all our residents can live, work and play with equal opportunities. With the unprecedented growth and economic development occurring across the city, City Council and city leadership are working to plan for further growth and increased demand for services responsibly.

We believe that language access is an integral part of equity and inclusion. Concord has seen an increasing demand for expanding language access for our non-English speaking residents in recent years. Our goal is to bridge communication barriers to promote and facilitate civic participation for limited English proficient speakers. Therefore, we certainly value and welcome the opportunity presented by the Language Access Collaboration to achieve that goal.

While the City of Concord's Council and management continue to carefully manage the exponential growth in our community, we are invested in efforts that help create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for our residents. To do so, we need to ensure that information reaches as many residents as possible, including the tens of thousands with limited English proficiency.

We look forward to continuing to eliminate communication barriers. Partnering with El Puente Hispano under your Language Access Collaborative Program team is a perfect opportunity to do so. Thank you for your consideration for this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,



William C. Dusch
Mayor of Concord