Social Inclusion

Ensuring communities are helpful to all residents.

An evolutionary journey.
Deaf Culture in Olathe

History and Surroundings
- Home to Kansas School of the Deaf since 1866
- Home to the William J. Marra Museum of Deaf History and Culture
- Large population of deaf or hard of hearing residents in Olathe

City Inclusion Efforts
- Board service opportunities
- Visual message captioning
- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters
- ASL 1st Responder Training
Olathe Human Relations Commission (OHRC)

Ensuring equality and eliminating prejudice

- Founded during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s
- Council-appointed commission
- Fosters understanding and cooperation among diverse groups
- Investigates complaints
- Established the “Act Against Discrimination” focused on:
  - Housing
  - Employment
  - City Contracts

“Change Gonna Come”
Examples
Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board (PDAB) is a 13 member City Council appointed board. It works to promote a "disabled-friendly" city. Its aims are to improve access to government, community facilities and activities. It encourages communication, works towards enhanced quality of life for Olathe citizens with disabilities, and acts as consultants for commercial universal design.
OHRC Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
A partnership with the Olathe Public Schools to educate and involve students in the advancement of Dr. King’s legacy.
Our future

Creating opportunities for new voices.
Convening stakeholders to achieve “One” Olathe.
**Vision**
To be the model city where engaged residents, strong community partnerships and responsive government work together towards “One Olathe” where all can thrive.

**Mission**
To serve, engage and celebrate Olathe’s special culture and community by providing links between the City, City services, neighborhoods and community organizations in order to strengthen participation, access and involvement for all.
City services work together to achieve more
Olathe Latino Coalition (OLC)

- Began as a mayoral initiative funded by City, evolved into a community coalition
- Core group of trusted Latino leaders, government, social service, faith providers, businesses and educators focused on collaboration and speaking with one voice.
- Positioned to listen, respect and meet the expectations and dreams of the Latino population.
- Surveyed the population and created plans for communication and action.
- Areas of focus:
  - Undocumented population
  - Modern settlers
  - Access to quality Housing
  - Opportunities for employment
  - Establishing Trust
  - Eliminating Discrimination

Making Olathe a more welcoming city for Latinos.
Got questions?
We’ll happily share our experiences...but we don’t profess to have all the answers.

Let’s put our minds together and come up with solutions.
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Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Service