

## Welcome Dayton Committee Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2025, in person at Dayton Metro Library, 215 E. Third St. Dayton, OH 45402

### **Attendees:**

Welcome Dayton Committee Members: Gwen Eberly, RJ Francisco, Nozipo Glenn, Dani Heeter, Stephanie Keinath, Katie Kersh, Jean de Dieu Mukunzi, Claire Preston, Mary Reid, Tom Wahlrab, Pete Williams

City Staff: Jeannette Horwitz, Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, Maddi Reed

Guests: Isabella Smith (City Commission Intern), Dennis Kostin (ABLE Summer Associate), Aline Uwase (Wright State University)

### **I. Call to Order**

In Commissioner Joseph's absence, Jeannette Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:39 PM

### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Jeannette Horwitz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2025, meeting. Katie Kersh moved to approve the minutes and Gwen Eberly second. The minutes were approved.

### **III. Welcome & Introductions**

Jeannette Horwitz welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Stephanie Keinath for bringing refreshments. A round of introductions followed with each attendee sharing their favorite summer treat.

### **IV. General Updates**

Commissioner Joseph asked Jeannette to share that the Department of Homeland Security published a list of "sanctuary jurisdictions" in the U.S. on May 29. Dayton was not listed but Cincinnati and Columbus were. The list was removed from the DHS website on June 1 after criticism for how it had been compiled and for lack of a clear definition of "sanctuary jurisdiction."

### **V. Immigration Updates – Katie Kersh, ABLE / David Larson, Larson & Lyons**

Katie Kersh shared four updates. First – a travel ban was announced a few weeks ago; partial and full with 12 nations on the full travel ban list. Substantial populations in Dayton are affected. There will likely be waivers as there were in the last administration. There are some current family and asylee petitions; it will be complicated for them to come to the US. Second – birthright citizenship case; U.S. Supreme Court has heard arguments, actual case before the SC is the stoppage of the order. Third – Temporary Protected Status; about 13 countries that have

been designated for TPS are affected in some way. Ukraine and El Salvador have not been touched. They should continue to reapply. ABLE continues to have monthly clinics. Venezuela – TPS ended for majority on April 7. Afghanistan – will be terminated July 14. If you have something else pending, you should be ok. ABLE is keeping an eye on Haiti. TPS has been extended and now August 3 is the deadline, but this may change. Many Haitians are moving from Springfield to Dayton. Several state bills are percolating that are concerning. SB 42 will require the Department of Education to report on the immigration status of family members. This is concerning. HB 200 and HB 281 (allowing ICE to enter hospitals) are also concerning. Lastly, there are some rumors of an uptick in ICE raids in the southwestern Ohio area. Please familiarize yourselves with resources that are available in order help families prepare. Folks really need to be prepared in case of an ICE raid, know what documents to get together, have a Power of Attorney, etc. ABLE's website contains resources including multilingual videos and guides. Please share.

Tom Wahlrab asked if any other committees/boards are hearing about or discussing concerns about immigration? Does the City track state bills or try to influence them? What is the City Commission doing around these bills?

## **VI. Coordinator's Updates**

Jeannette Horwitz shared the following:

- The position to replace Desire is in the process of being filled. Hope to introduce our new colleague at the August Welcome Dayton Committee meeting.
- Welcome Dayton's website has been updated with the new "[Voices of the Immigrant Experience](#)." We are looking to possibly add three more features.
- 34 North Main St building across from Courthouse Square features links to "Voices of the Immigrant Experience," Welcome Dayton and Certified Welcoming. If you have not yet seen it, be sure to check it out.
- Certified Welcoming sign is up at Dayton International Airport!
- Community Engagement's new electric car has the Certified Welcoming logo.
- Thank you to those who have added the Certified Welcoming logo to your email signatures!
- World Refugee Day takes place at DML Saturday, June 21, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Help yourselves to flyers and pleas spread the word.
- Miami Valley Community ID Drive #3 Tuesday, July 29, 5-8 PM at DML. Registration opens June 20.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Market with Five Rivers Metro Parks has scheduled two more Global Artisan Markets. One will be Sunday before Thanksgiving and the next at the end of April 2026.
- City of Dayton's Department of Recreation reached out to Welcome Dayton to bring back the World Soccer Games in 2026. They are looking to form a committee to work on this. Anyone interested should let Jeannette know or if you have suggestions of people that may want to be involved with this, also let Jeannette know. (Claire Preston volunteered and Jeannette will share her contact information with the Department of Recreation).
- One of Dayton's Sister Cities is Augsburg, Germany. A delegation, including the mayor, will be visiting Dayton in August. Augsburg is nicknamed "The City of Peace" after the "High Peace Festival" taking place there since 1650 to celebrate the end of a long conflict between the city's Roman Catholics and Protestants. The delegation has requested to meet with folks in Dayton connected to anything related to peace so the Sister City Committee has invited Welcome Dayton to meet at the Peace Museum on Tuesday, August 5, 10:30 for a conversation with the delegation. Jeannette is looking for a few WDC members who might want to join her on August 5 to talk about what Welcome Dayton is, how it began and where we are today.

## **VII. Subcommittee Updates**

### **Business and Economic Development – Gwen Eberly**

Gwen reported that she has a meeting coming up to discuss immigrant-owned food trucks. The group will talk about how to ensure they understand compliance, where to set up, etc. The plan is to offer some sort of roundtable for this community.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 2:30 PM via Zoom.

### **Education – Dani Heeter**

New American Employer Roundtable is scheduled for June 17 at 8:00 AM at the Employment Opportunity Center. Interest in roundtables has not been as great as previous years. Stacie Anderson-Cook with Montgomery County ESC held a summer ESL program for youth that went really well. DPS has summer programming for students too. Enrollment is holding steady with DPS. Mama Nozpio shared that there is an RTA advocacy group that meets once every other month and would like to have a representative from the immigrant/refugee community on the committee. Jean de Dieu Mukunzi expressed interest and will connect with Mama Nozpio.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 3:00 PM via Teams

### **Community, Culture and Arts – Rachel Gut**

Jeannette shared on behalf of Rachel that the committee has welcomed two new members who have already taken an active role in the committee, one by creating the World Refugee Day flyer and the other for volunteering his company's services to provide frames for artists in the New Americans Art Exhibit this fall. The committee has been involved with World Refugee Day planning, is working on a Day of the Dead World Ancestral Celebration on November 1 at DML and the New Americans Art Exhibit which will kick off at WRD on June 21. Multilingual flyers for all events are available to take today.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 5, 9:30 AM via WebEx

### **Local Government & Justice – David Larson**

No report.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 12:00 PM via Zoom

### **Health and Human Services – Mary Reid**

Since the last meeting, the Health & Human Services Subcommittee has met twice.

On April 24, the committee met with a presentation on the Miami Valley Community ID drive. Martha-Jeannette provided a presentation on the history and purpose of the MVID. RJ Francisco shared his experience bringing his employer, Premier Health, on board.

On May 22nd, the focus of the meeting was welcoming strategies by food providers. Amanda DeLotelle, Executive Director of Miami Valley Meals, shared information on cultural food trainings her team has engaged in and efforts they have made to make culturally relevant meals. Mary-Pat Zengel with the Catholic Social Service Food Pantry shared new processes for improving the intake process with non-English speakers and new guides and signage to help non-English speakers navigate the pantry space.

There will be no June meeting. Committee members were encouraged to participate in World Refugee Day celebrations.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 24, 2:30 PM via Teams.

### **Countywide Exploratory Committee – Jyl Hall/Pete Williams**

Pete shared that there should be an update by the August meeting.

Next Meeting: N/A

## **Natural Helpers – Jeannette Horwitz**

Committee is resting.

### VIII. Old Business

### IX. New Business

Jean de Dieu Mukunzi asked about requests for undocumented immigrants to self-report and receive \$1,000 in lieu of having the right to come back to the US legally in the future. Katie Kersh commented that the right to come back is tricky because most people have a bar (# of years) where they cannot come back to the U.S. Katie said she has not seen anything credible that people should do this. ICE cannot just waive the law. Jean de Dieu asked about various rumors circulating and what we can do about it. ABLE hopes to possibly having a What's App channel. The group discussed how do we dispel rumors so that word gets out quickly? Katie encouraged use of ABLE's website more. Katie will bring back ideas to the ABLE team to see if they can do some "rumor of the week" videos. Claire Preston expressed concern that Haitians in Springfield are experiencing tremendous challenges right now and may to some outreach to Haitian-serving organizations in Springfield to learn about ways to help.

### X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Jeannette Horwitz thanked everyone for the work they're doing despite the challenging times. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

### XI. Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 8, 2025, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, DML-Main 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette E. Horwitz, Welcome Dayton Coordinator