About the Welcome Dayton Plan

Prepared by Thomas J. Wahlrab, Executive Director
City of Dayton/Human Relations Council
371 W. Second Street, Suite 100
Dayton, Ohio 45402
937-333-1407 (office) 937-222-4589 (fax)
tom.wahlrab@daytonohio.gov / www.daytonohio.gov

The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to support Dayton becoming a global city by attracting the best and the brightest to help get us there. The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to enhance the potential of Dayton as a competitor in the global economy by attracting immigrants who bring new ideas, new perspective, new resources and new talent to our workforce. We need to think globally and recruit the very best from around the world. In particular, we know that area universities, hospitals and tech industries are recruiting to fill highly skilled positions.

The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to encourage immigrants on a path to citizenship, which we believe is a responsible way for our community to integrate new residents who call Dayton home. Counties and cities throughout the country * have implemented policies that help newly arrived immigrants to get settled in their new communities, reducing barriers to business development; increasing participation in government and community organizations; reducing their risk of being exploited by employers; easing access to social services; promoting social integration; reducing barriers to business development; and generating an overall climate of trust, respect, and welcome. Locally we have observed that immigrants have started businesses, created jobs and rehabilitated houses.

We hope to nurture and expand those positive contributions to enhance our community for the long-term. Click here to read the full report and better understand the goals of the Welcome Dayton plan:

A copy of the Welcome Dayton Plan can be accessed at:
www.daytonohio.gov/welcomedaytonreport.

- Fort Wayne, IN, Austin, TX, Seattle, WA, El Paso, TX, Durham, NC, Louisville, KY, Philadelphia, PA, Columbus, OH, Chattanooga, TE, Skokie, IL, Los Angeles, CA, Boulder, CO, Santa Clara County and San Jose, CA, Littleton, CO, San Francisco, CA, New Your City, NY, Washington, D.C., Princeton, New Jersey, Richmond, Virginia, Houston, TX
a. The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to encourage immigrants on a path to citizenship and we believe it is a responsible way for our community to integrate the new immigrants who call Dayton home.

b. The Welcome Dayton Plan will serve to attract the best and brightest people to grow our City.

c. The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to support Dayton becoming a global city by attracting the best and the brightest to help get us there.

d. The Welcome Dayton Plan is designed to enhance the potential of Dayton as a competitor in the global economy by attracting immigrants who bring new ideas, new perspective, and new talent to our workforce. We need to think globally and recruit the very best from around the world.

e. The Welcome Dayton Plan leaves Federal Immigration law enforcement to the Feds, and instead focuses on making our community one that treats all people kindly, fairly and humanely.

f. In a community where immigrants are welcomed, they receive mutual respect and support, while in an unwelcoming community they can experience social isolation, health problems, poverty and social discord.

g. Immigrants and refugees from throughout the world now call Dayton home.

h. The White House blueprint for “Building a 21st Century Immigration System,” (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/immigrationblueprint.pdf) notes that “Immigrants started 25 percent of the highest-growth companies between 1990-2005, and these companies directly employ an estimated 220,000 people inside the U.S.” Moreover, “immigrant business owners generate $67 billion of the $577 billion in U.S. business income.” And “in the 1990s alone, skilled immigrants helped boost GDP by between 1.4 and 2.4 percent.”

i. Locally we have observed that immigrants have started businesses, created jobs and rehabilitated houses.

j. What is possible, if we become a city that intentionally welcomes immigrants?

(1) Between 1970 and 2000, each decade saw a larger net inflow of new immigrants than any previous decade in U.S. history. Between 1990 and 2000 alone, the decade saw the largest contingent (13.7 million) ever to come to our country during any decade up to that time. Unlike in the past, when most
immigrants were concentrated in a few states, today significant concentrations of immigrants are all over the country, including the Dayton area.

(2) The Brookings Institution’s most recent report from June 9, 2011, The Geography of Immigrant Skills: Educational Profiles of Metropolitan Areas, confirms what we are seeing in Dayton and points out that “U.S. global competitiveness rests on the ability of immigrants and their children to thrive economically and to contribute to the nation’s productivity.”

(3) The White House blueprint for “Building a 21st Century Immigration System,” notes that “Immigrants started 25 percent of the highest-growth companies between 1990-2005, and these companies directly employ an estimated 220,000 people inside the U.S.” Moreover, “immigrant business owners generate $67 billion of the $577 billion in U.S. business income.” And “in the 1990s alone, skilled immigrants helped boost GDP by between 1.4 and 2.4 percent.”

(4) The U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s report published on May 1, 2011, Immigration Myths and Facts: labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits Division states, “Our compilation shows that immigrants significantly benefit the U.S. economy by creating new jobs, and complementing the skills of the U.S. native workforce, with a net positive impact on wage rates overall.”