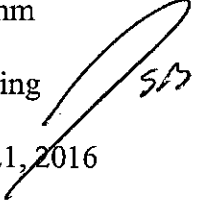


CITY OF KENT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

MEMO

TO: Dave Ruller  
Tara Grimm

FROM: Jim Bowling 

DATE: October 21, 2016

RE: ODOT D04 Crack Seal FY 2017; PID 101998  
Consent Legislation

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has requested the City of Kent's consent to crack seal SR 261 within the City limits starting at Summit Street (southern corporation limit) and continue north to the northern corporation limit (appx. 0.29 miles). The project is slated for award in March, 2017 with the crack seal work anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2017. The work is part of a District wide project to crack seal streets within ODOT District 4 (6 counties). Attached is ODOT's letter requesting the City's consent.

c: Melanie Baker  
Jim Silver  
Pat Homan  
file

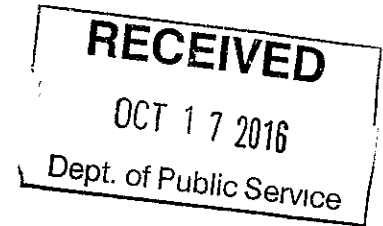


# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4 • 2088 SOUTH ARLINGTON ROAD • AKRON, OHIO 44306 • (800) 603-1054  
JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR • ANTHONY URANKAR, DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 13, 2016

City of Kent  
Department of Public Service  
930 Overholt Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Kent, Ohio 44240



Attention: Mr. Jim Bowling, P.E., City Engineer  
Subject: D04 Crack Seal FY 2017 – PID 101998

Dear Mr. Bowling:

Attached are two (2) forms of Consent Legislation for the subject project that will begin construction in fiscal year 2017. Per Section 5521.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Director of Transportation is required to request and receive legislation from municipalities, prior to making any necessary repairs to State Highways within the corporate limits. Please have both originals of the Legislation signed then return both to this office for further processing. Once they are signed in the District, one copy will be returned to you for your records.

This legislation may be retyped to suit local preferred format, however, no information may be deleted from the legislation, and the **Certificate of Copy, State of Ohio** must be returned signed and containing a line for the Director of Transportation's signature. Also, please put the county, route and section, along with the PID Number of the project on the cover letter, so the correct project information can be put with the related legislation. We would appreciate receiving this legislation as soon as it can be executed.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (330) 786-4921.

Respectfully,

Steven J. Rebillot  
Planning Administrator

James R. Bruner, P.E., GISP  
Capital Planning/GIS Manager

SJR/JRB/dh

Enclosures

cc: file

**CONSENT LEGISLATION**

**RC 5521.01**

**Ordinance/Resolution#** \_\_\_\_\_

**PID No.** 101998

**County/Route/Section** D04 Crack Seal FY 2017

The following is \_\_\_\_\_ enacted by the City of Kent of Portage  
(Ordinance/Resolution) (Local Public Agency)  
County, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the Local Public Agency (LPA).

**SECTION I - Project Description**

WHEREAS, the (LPA/STATE) has identified the need for the described project:

City of Kent, Crack sealing sections of SR 261 within the city.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of Kent of Portage County, Ohio.  
(LPA)

**SECTION II - Consent Statement**

Being in the public interest, the LPA gives consent to the Director of Transportation to complete the above described project.

**SECTION III - Cooperation Statement**

The LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the above described project as follows:

The State shall assume and bear 100% of all of the costs of the improvement.

The LPA further agrees to pay One Hundred Percent (100%) of the cost of those features requested by the LPA which are determined by the State and Federal Highway Administration to be unnecessary for the Project.

**SECTION IV - Utilities and Right-of-Way Statement**

The LPA agrees that all right-of-way required for the described project will be acquired and/or made available in accordance with current State and Federal regulations. The LPA also understands that right-of way costs include eligible utility costs.

**SECTION V - Maintenance**

Upon completion of the described Project, and unless otherwise agreed, the LPA shall: (1) provide adequate maintenance for the described Project in accordance with all applicable state and federal law, including, but not limited to, 23 USC 116; (2) provide ample financial provisions, as necessary, for the maintenance of the Project; (3) maintain the right-of-way, keeping it free of obstructions; and (4) hold said right-of-way inviolate for public highway purposes.

**SECTION VI - Authority to Sign**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of said \_\_\_\_\_ City of Kent \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby empowered  
(Contractual Agent) (LPA)  
on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ City of Kent \_\_\_\_\_ to enter into contracts with the Director of  
(LPA)

Transportation which is necessary to complete the above described project.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk) (Officer of LPA - title)

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title) (President of Council)

This \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby declared to be an emergency measure to  
(Ordinance/Resolution)  
expedite the highway project(s) and to promote highway safety. Following appropriate legislative action, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval, otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

CERTIFICATE OF COPY  
STATE OF OHIO

City of Kent of Portage County, Ohio,  
(LPA)

\_\_\_\_\_, as Clerk of the City of Kent  
(LPA)

of Portage County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and  
correct copy of \_\_\_\_\_ adopted by the legislative Authority of the said  
(Ordinance/Resolution)

City of Kent on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
(LPA)

that the publication of such \_\_\_\_\_ has been made and certified of  
(Ordinance/Resolution)

record according to law; that no proceedings looking to a referendum upon such  
\_\_\_\_\_ have been taken; and that such \_\_\_\_\_

(Ordinance/Resolution) \_\_\_\_\_ (Ordinance/Resolution)  
and certificate of publication thereof are of record in \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ordinance/Resolution Record No.)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal, if  
applicable, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

CITY SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

City of Kent of Portage County, Ohio  
(LPA)

(If the LPA is designated as a City then the "City Seal" is required. If no Seal, then a letter stating "No  
Seal is required to accompany the executed legislation.)

The foregoing is accepted as a basis for proceeding with the project herein described.  
For the City of Kent of Portage County, Ohio  
(LPA)

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

For the State of Ohio

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Director, Ohio Department of Transportation

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
REGARDING ACQUISITION AND USE OF PUMP TESTING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, Pursuant to R.C. 505.37(B), the board of township trustees of two or more townships, the legislative authorities of two or more political subdivisions, or a combination thereof, may through joint action, purchase, maintain, and operate firefighting equipment.

WHEREAS, Suffield Township, Brimfield Township, City of Kent, Village of Mogadore, Randolph Township, and Rootstown Township (“political subdivisions”) desire to jointly participate in acquiring test gauges and test tips for the purpose of fire truck pump testing (“pump testing equipment”). The pump testing equipment is to be maintained and used as described herein.

Now Therefore, the participating political subdivisions, hereby agree as follows:

1. Suffield Township will purchase the test gauges and test tips and will send notice to the participating political subdivisions as to the total cost for the pump testing equipment, which shall be divided equally among the participating political subdivisions.
2. Suffield Township will keep the pump testing equipment at its fire station, with the participating political subdivisions having access to the equipment, with reasonable and appropriate days and times for usage being arrived at by the participating political subdivisions.
3. The maintenance costs of the pump testing equipment will be paid in equal shares by the participating political subdivisions, with notice of such costs being provided by Suffield Township to the participating political subdivisions.
4. Any participating political subdivision may terminate its participation in this joint arrangement by providing thirty (30) days prior written notice of its intent to terminate participation, after which time the political subdivision terminating participation shall be released from any future obligation under this memorandum of understanding, as well as relinquishing any right to any future use of the pump testing equipment.
5. The participating political subdivisions will adopt the appropriate ordinance or resolution to authorize execution of this document.

The participating political subdivisions, through their respective officials, have agreed to and executed this memorandum on the dates listed below their respective names.

**Signature page for pump test equipment consortium.**

For the **City of Kent**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, City of Kent Fire Dept.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Plastic Bag Issue Summary  
City of Kent Sustainability Commission

We, the City of Kent Sustainability Commission, have discussed the pros and cons of a plastic bag ban in Kent for several months. We researched the current state of plastic bag use in the City of Kent, how other cities have handled plastic bag bans, and gathered opinions from other constituents at the Haymaker Farmer's Market. This is a summary of our discussions, and recommendations for progress towards an end to plastic bag use.

1. We agree that there is a need to reduce the use of plastic bags due to their negative impacts on the environment in their creation, use, distribution, and legacy. We found that plastic bags are a nuisance for wildlife, often end up littering natural habitats, contaminate freshwater environments, and are currently not being recycled by some plastic recycling facilities due to low economic value. A plastic bag ban would also reduce solid waste, for those bags not being recycled, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the long term.
2. We support a ban on plastic bag use and distribution in Kent but feel that a long-term integrative plan would best achieve this goal rather than an outright ban.
3. Most of the shopper's at the Farmer's Market were also in support of a ban however we realize that we likely spoke to people who already limit plastic bag use when shopping.
4. We discussed that a citywide ban would only affect businesses within Kent limits, yet most major grocery and department stores are outside of Kent. Plastic bags would still be plentiful in the area, while a ban would mostly inconvenience downtown shoppers and businesses. Of the major grocery chains around Kent, most offer a place to recycle plastic bags, options to purchase re-usable bags, and/or require you to bring your own boxes and bags or purchase plastic bags in-store. Below is a summary:
  - A. We noted that signs are posted in the parking lot of the Acme on Main St. reminding shoppers to remember their reusable bags. As part of a long-term solution, we think increased signage near parking lots would encourage shoppers to remember their re-usable bags.
  - B. We also think the lottery program, similar to the program at the Giant Eagle in Stow has is a good incentive to encourage bringing your own bags. They give tickets to a drawing for a Giant Eagle gift card for bringing reusable bags. This is another way to encourage, educate, and reward those who reduce plastic bag use.
  - C. Target takes \$0.05 of your purchase for bringing bags, while this is a good idea, the monetary value is too low to be an incentive.
  - D. Aldi does not provide bags to its customers, but it is one of the fastest growing chains. People are willing to bring their own bags or



pay for a sturdier plastic or paper bag. Charging for plastic could also become a step in the plan. We believe that once people have a chance to understand and adjust, reducing the use of plastic may become a choice instead of forced ban.

5. We discussed that a ban may not go over well with downtown business owners, which give out branded bags with purchase. Several downtown stores use paper bags, but paper bags are not an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic as their fabrication is equally damaging. We foresee that downtown businesses might be a hurdle in instituting a ban, and we would need to offer a solution for those businesses who use branded plastic bags. Example: Kent State bookstore.
6. We discussed starting a bag share program. This involves collecting cloth bags and making bags from recycled fabrics that will be labeled with "Kent Bag Share" and then left at some businesses, starting with the Haymaker Market and the Food Co-op. The idea is to use and then return them to one of the locations, a free resource for shoppers. This program will be started small and grow with interest, we are aiming to start at the 2017 Farmer's Market.
7. There is the option of biodegradable bags. We considered writing a grant to provide this kind of bag as a step in the plan. The bags could be printed with a message about Kent's plastic ban. This could provide a different alternative for some of the businesses. While these biodegradable bags do not prevent one-time use, they offer a better solution to plastic bags but would require financial support from the city.
8. Other city programs that we researched offered ideas that could be included in a long-term plan.
  - A. Increase public outreach and education.
  - B. Institute an ordinance which fines business owners (may not be optimal for small towns)
  - C. Taxes and fees for plastic bags (ex. \$0.05/bag) money from this type of program could be used for public works projects or could be funneled back into a plastic bag fund to help support some of our other ideas like biodegradable bags. This has been the most effective measure in a recent article comparing the pros and cons.

## Kent Area Grocery Store Reusable Bag Programs and/or Information

1) Giant Eagle: <https://www.gianteagle.com/About/Supporting-Our-Environment/Reusable-Bags/>

- **Current Program offerings:**
  - Entered into monthly drawing for a \$25 gift card to Giant Eagle for re-usable bag use (customer fills out the drawing slip at the register during check-out). Program is ongoing with no foreseeable end date.
  - They sell Giant Eagle branded reusable bags for 99¢.
  - There is a plastic bag recycle receptacle at the entrance to the store.
- **The whys and facts per company website:**
  - They're large enough to fit more items than standard bags.
  - You can keep them in your car so you always have them with you when you shop.
  - Ninety to 95 percent of bags are plastic, with more than 500 billion in circulation worldwide.
  - In the USA, we use 84-100 billion plastic bags annually; less than five percent of these bags are recycled — the remainder go to landfills, incinerators or become litter.
  - Paper bag production generates 70 percent more air pollutants and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bag production; plus, it takes 98 percent more energy to recycle a pound of paper than it takes to recycle a pound of plastic.

2) Acme Fresh Markets: <https://www.acmestores.com/acme-reusable-grocery-bags/> and <https://www.acmestores.com/blog/contests/>

- **Current Program offerings:**
  - No current reusable bag program.
  - There is a plastic bag recycle receptacle at the entrance to the store.
  - In 2011 Acme ran a reusable bag promotion featuring bags designed by Akron artist Don Drumm to both sell and use as a sweepstakes give-away. Acme also used the program to make a donation to the Akron Area Arts Alliance.

3) Marc's: <http://www.marcs.com/general/sustainability.aspx>

- **Current Program offerings:**
  - No current reusable bag program.
  - They sell reusable grocery bags.
  - There is a plastic bag recycle station in the front of the store where customers put their used plastic bags. Those collected bags are then sent to Marc's corporate headquarters to be recycled.
- **The whys and facts per company website:**
  - Marc's sold hundreds of thousands of reusable shopping bags under cost to reduce the use of plastic bags.

4) Walmart: <http://corporate.walmart.com/global-responsibility/sustainability/>

- **Current Program offerings:**
  - Unable to speak with anyone about their reusable bag program (if any).
  - They sell reusable grocery bags.
  - There is a plastic bag recycle receptacle.
- **The whys and facts per company website:**
  - One-time-use shopping bags represent a tremendous opportunity to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills. Through a variety of initiatives in each of the markets we serve around the world,

Walmart reduced plastic bag waste by more than 38% by the end of 2013, compared to our 2007 baseline. That represents a reduction of 10 billion bags annually.

- Reusable bags are talked about in relation to the company's larger sustainability programs that help them reach their overall targeted goal of Zero Waste.

5) Aldi: <https://www.aldi.us/en/new-to-aldi/shopping-at-aldi/> and <https://www.aldi.us/en/customer-service/faqs/about-aldi/>

- **Current Program offerings:**

- They charge for paper or plastic bags (5¢ - 10¢), but do offer emptied, product/cardboard boxes in case customers forget their reusable bags.
- They sell reusable grocery bags.

- **The whys and facts per company website:**

- Bring your own bags or buy our reusable ones at checkout.
- Everything we do from our smaller, energy-saving stores to recycled bags and cartons capture the very essence of conservation. As a result, you can save up to 50% on the majority of your needs.
- At ALDI, we believe in bringing our customers the highest quality products at the lowest possible prices through a number of operational savings. Given our simple approach to retailing, one of the ways we help our customers save money is by encouraging them to bring their own shopping bags or to purchase a reusable, long-lasting ALDI bag. The end result is that we not only save our customers money – by avoiding adding the cost of the bag to our prices – but also precious resources.

6) Save A Lot: <http://save-a-lot.com/about-save-a-lot/environment>

- **Current Program offerings:**

- Unable to speak with anyone about their reusable bag program (if any).
- They sell reusable grocery bags.

- **The whys and facts per company website:**

- At Save-A-Lot, we have a responsibility to identify and support initiatives that are environmentally-friendly, ranging from recycling programs to reducing energy usage in our stores, distribution centers and offices. As a company, we are working to reduce our carbon footprint and increase the type and quantity of content recycled. Since Save-A-Lot opened its first store more than 40 years ago, our business model and philosophy have always been to operate efficiently, reduce excess and make productive use of our resources. We are committed to environmental stewardship and sustainable operations and continually work to use energy more efficiently and reduce waste. Some examples of Save-A-Lot's commitment to sustainability include (those here are relational to bags):

- Implementing paper, plastic, cardboard box and aluminum recycling programs.
- Encouraging customers to use alternatives to plastic bags such as reusable canvas totes.

7) Target: <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/sustainability/sustainable-products>

- **Current Program offerings:**

- Their current reusable bag program features the following:
  - Each time a guest buys something at our stores, we offer a 5-cent discount for each reusable bag they use.
  - So far, our guests have used more than 190 million reusable bags instead of paper or plastic. We encourage guests to make reusable bags a regular part of their shopping routine by offering a broad and ever-changing assortment of bags that fit different lifestyles and needs (for sale).

# The Ubiquitous Plastic Bag — And What To Do

f w p @ in

*Local governments around the country have adopted various regulations and incentives to reduce use of plastic bags. Research evaluates their effectiveness.*

**Megan E. McLaughlin and John M. Halstead**

BioCycle August 2016, Vol. 57, No. 7, p. 38

Each year, Americans consume over 100 billion single use plastic bags, the most ubiquitous of all throwaway items. Their usefulness can be measured in minutes; unfortunately, the waste lingers longer, and can clog sewer lines, create problems in recycling plants, and pollute waterways. However, single use plastic bags are also cost-effective and more durable in inclement weather.

Local, state, and national governments are trying to manage single use plastic bag waste, using bans, fees, improved recycling and compostable bags. Nongovernmental organizations and environmental activists are pressuring the government to reduce plastic bag consumption, promoting measures that industry and retail organizations sometimes oppose. Key questions raised include how plastic bags are being used, why they are being used, and most important, what do we do with them once they have been used?

## Plastic Bag Policy Measures

When weighing the pros and cons of managing plastic bags, one option is an outright ban. Another is assessing a fee or tax on plastic bags; this can reduce single-use bag consumption while allowing customers to choose if they want a plastic bag. According to Romer and Tamminen (2014), charging for plastic bags has a greater impact on reduction because it incentivizes behavioral change and forces customers to make a conscious decision to purchase a bag. The last option is voluntary take-back/recycling programs to address plastic bags at the end of their useful cycle.

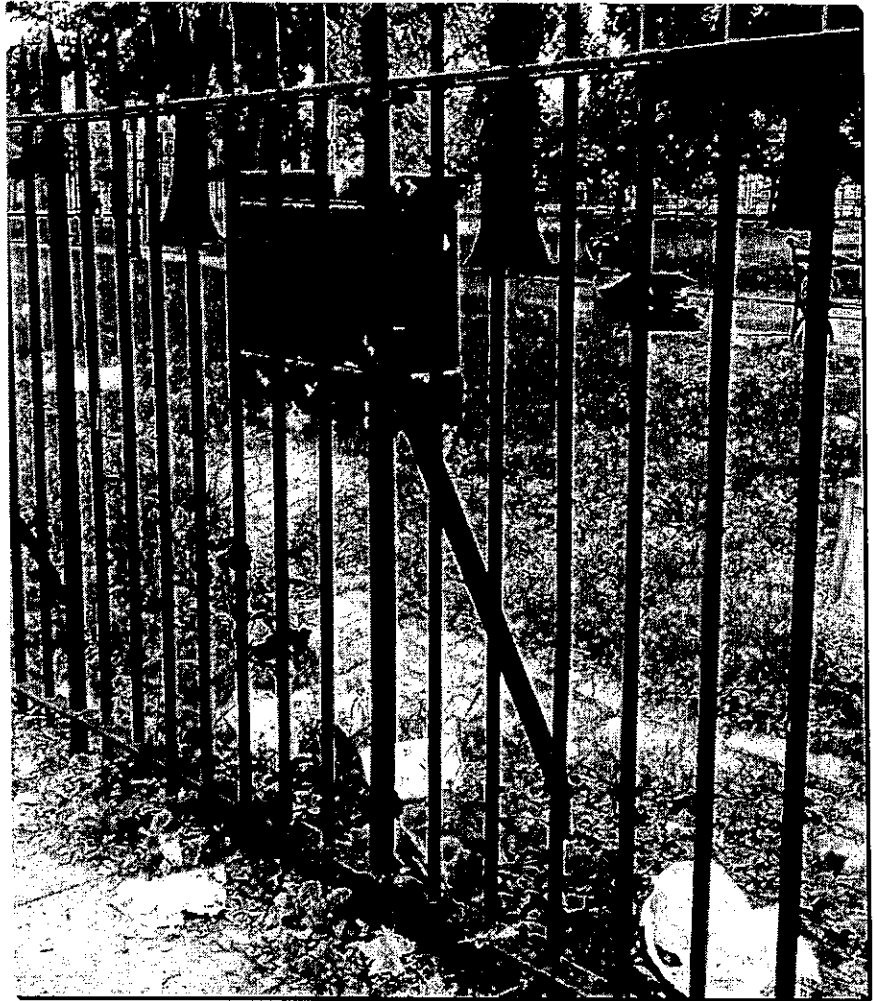


Photo by Hannah Clark

A research project was conducted to understand the effectiveness of bans, taxes and take-back/recycling programs. U.S. communities that have taken plastic bag action were studied, examining motivating factors, whether it was a local or state effort, and patterns between communities. Phone interviews were conducted with municipal representatives, and the researchers studied news articles and public opinion, and reviewed local legislation and revenue documents (McLaughlin, 2016).

Case studies from 13 locations were selected based on availability of information, supplemented by online data. The case studies fell into the three types of programs:

**Bans:** Austin, Texas; Portland, Oregon; State of Hawaii; Westport, Connecticut; Alameda County, California

**Take-Back/Recycling:** State of Delaware; State of Rhode Island; Phoenix, Arizona; Brooklyn, New York

**Plastic Bag Taxes:** Washington, D.C.; Portland, Maine; Breckenridge, Colorado; Montgomery County, Maryland.

Reasons for policy initiation included concern about environmental impacts, citizen welfare, impacts to waterways, litter, storm water infrastructure impairment, and the excessive use of plastic bags overall. For example, in Montgomery County, the watershed was so polluted with litter that it violated the Clean Water Act.

## Regulation Effectiveness

### Bans

The bans examined varied widely in implementation and detail. In Alameda County, the details of the regulation were explicit; however, in Austin, a reverse incentive occurred. Its ban exempted plastic bags that are 4 mil in thickness or greater with handles, as well as paper bags made of 40 percent recycled content with handles. Austin's ban led to a reduction in plastic bags covered by the ordinance, but an increase in larger, ban-exempt 4 mil or greater plastic bags (Waters, 2015). In Portland, Oregon, reusable checkout bag use increased 304 percent while paper checkout bag use increased 491 percent (Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, 2012). The Westport, Connecticut's conservation director noted, "businesses have adjusted well, consumers took to the ban with only a bit of early grumbling, and the amount of loose bag trash has definitely dropped" (Hladky, 2014).

### Take Back/Recycling Programs

In Brooklyn, prior to implementation of a recycling program, plastic bags were getting stuck in recycling equipment. After the installation of ballistic separators — which act as a series of sieves and shakers to remove 2-dimensional materials from 3-dimensional containers — plastic bags can be recycled more easily. While some bags still get caught in the system, it is working well to handle the large amount of plastic bags that go along with the population density in the City (Green in Bklyn, n.d.).

In Delaware, all plastic bags must be labeled "Please Return This Bag to a Participating Store for Recycling" or similar language to encourage reuse and recycling; stores are required to offer reusable bags to consumers. The voluntary recycling program is not doing enough on its own and Delaware is considering imposing a fee on plastic bags, with revenue raised used to help stores fund their existing recycling programs (Willing, 2015). Rhode Island's "ReStore" program was very well received and was initially voluntary for the consumer, and mandatory for commercial facilities to participate. Bags are taken back essentially everywhere in Rhode Island and the program is considered a success.

Phoenix partnered with the Arizona Food Marketing Alliance to encourage voluntary participation from its grocer members. Retailers still support the program eight years after implementation. The Public Works Department uses its quarterly Customer Service Survey to gather community input and determine education effectiveness. Plastic bag use at stores has dropped by 12 percent, 1,300 tons of plastic bags have been captured annually by six grocery store chains, and there was a 20 percent decline in plastic bags brought to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

### Taxes and Fees

Washington D.C. set a tax of 5 cents/plastic bag, which generated between \$1.5 million to \$2 million in each of the ordinance's first four years. This revenue trend implies that the tax was not high enough to change behavior as individuals still chose to use bags and pay the fee. Similarly, in Montgomery County, which also has a 5 cents/bag tax, revenue generated in the first year of the tax was over \$2 million as county shoppers have been more willing to pay for bags than anticipated. Officials projected a 60 percent decline in bag usage for the program's first year, which was overly optimistic. Conversely, environmental groups that conduct cleanups of county stream banks reported a significant reduction in the number of bags recovered (Turque, 2013).

Revenues from bag fees are used for a variety of purposes. In Washington, D.C., one cent of each five cents fee is retained by the retail establishment, with the remainder kept by the Office of Tax and Revenue (DDOE, n.d.). According to a city audit, a majority of the money was allocated for school fieldtrips and employee salaries. One-third of spending and allocations from the fund has gone toward trash traps to clean the Anacostia River and other environmental initiatives (Brittain and Rich, 2015).

In Breckenridge, revenues are split between the town and retail businesses, which use their portion of the fee to help recoup program costs. Breckenridge uses fee revenue to purchase and distribute reusable bags and educate the public about the program. Merchants' response to the fee was mixed but overall positive (Duboise, 2013). There was a 40 percent reduction in bags the first year, locals have shown exceptional support, and most tourists have been supportive. There has been pushback from some of the lodging companies as bags are distributed at no cost to visitors (Surfrider, 2015).

## Discussion And Takeaways

Which policy measure is best to control plastic bags? Looking at the results and drawing comparisons between communities, bans on plastic bags have the potential to work, but may offer loopholes that harm the environment. For instance, in Austin and Honolulu, banning plastic bags of certain thicknesses resulted in higher usage of heavier plastic bags, which found their way into the waste stream. On the other hand, Portland, Oregon found a 300 percent increase in reusable bag use, Westport saw the amount of loose bag trash drop, and reusable bag sales increased in Alameda County.

Stricter regulations regarding bag thickness could result in less plastic entering the waste stream, and result in higher use of reusable bags.

Take-back programs had similar mixed results. On the whole, the take-back program in Delaware was ineffective, as plastic bags still littered waterways, but Rhode Island saw great progress reducing plastic bag waste. In Phoenix, plastic bag use dropped 12 percent at stores, with a 20 percent decrease in plastic bags entering the MRF. In Brooklyn, enforcement of local laws helped decrease plastic bag usage. A key component of these programs is outreach; more effort to get competing retail, grocery and pharmaceutical chains on board helps increase recycling habits by the consumer as these businesses are major distributors of plastic bags.

Taxes had a mostly desired effect on plastic bag usage. Revenue from the tax has been allocated towards environmental and other social issues. Overall, revenue has not declined significantly, so some consumers are still opting to pay the tax. In Portland, Maine, reusable bag sales are up 350 percent at one major grocery chain. Other Maine cities are moving towards plastic bag legislation as a result. In Breckenridge, a 40 percent reduction in bags was seen the first year.

Clearly, each policy measure has advantages and disadvantages, and it is impossible to broadly generalize from the researchers' small set of case studies. When banning plastic bags, communities studied found that paper bags should be taxed or banned as well to prevent consumers from switching to this alternative, which has a larger carbon footprint (Ketcham, n.d.). A tax on bags needs to be set high enough that consumers will change their behavior. A take-back/recycling program needs to be accompanied with an education program to make it a habit for consumers.

**Megan E. McLaughlin** is an Assistant Town Planner in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. This research was conducted as part of her graduate study. **John M. Halstead** is Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics at University of New Hampshire. Partial funding for this research was provided by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station. This is Scientific Contribution Number 2680. This work was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hatch Project 0233237.

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Tags: Sustainability

This entry was posted on Monday, August 15th, 2016 at 11:25 am and is filed under Uncategorized. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

Comments are closed.

## **MULTI-CULTURAL COMMISSION RECOMENDATION**

I would like to make a motion that the administration be given the task of exploring the feasibility of creating a Multi-Cultural Commission:

Suggested Goals:

1. To help Kent identify and meet all the criteria necessary to be a true Compassionate Community.
2. To build community capacity for deeper understanding of the increasingly eclectic and diverse population of our community.
3. To utilize researched based tools, such as The Appreciative Inquiry methodology in a proactive and positive way to engage all stakeholders in determining what gives life to our community.
4. To build on those findings to make Kent an attractive place to reside in, to work in, operate businesses in, and exercise civic engagement.
5. To make recommendations to City Council, similar to the Sustainability committee, suggestive courses of action to meet the goals.
6. Make recommendations that will encourage the recruitment of quality candidates for all employment opportunities, both public and private, that are representative of the eclectic and diverse population of our community.

# Compassionate Cities

## Register Your Compassionate Community Campaign

Congratulations for taking the first step toward creating a Compassionate Community and connecting with other such communities throughout the world. Welcome!

By registering your community initiative, you also become a signatory of the [Charter for Compassion](#).

We'd like to get to know you, so please fill out the form on the linked page to register your intention. We'll review your inquiry and then send you an email to provide more information about the resources that CCI can provide to assist you in your efforts. We will also be asking you to invite people in your community to sign the Charter as members.

## REGISTER YOUR COMMUNITY

Tell us about yourself

We'll review your inquiry and use your information to send you a newsletter, invite you to events, connect you with people organizing campaigns in other cities.

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Your email

Street Address

City \*

Postal Code

Country \*

State/Province \*

Are you the main organizer? If not, tell others to fill out this form too. \*

Yes



No

Your occupation or background \*

Tell us about your campaign to create a compassionate city  
Top 3 focus areas for your campaign \*

Goals & objectives \*

Resources/training needed \*

Has your city signed the Charter for Compassion? \*

Yes

No

Name of your city \*

Country \*

State/Province \*

Global Region \*

Population \*

Approximate population of city/community

City campaign web site

Comments?

Email contact for your campaign \*

Website for your campaign

Your organization's logo

Files must be less than **2 MB**.  
Allowed file types: gif jpg png.

## Compassionate Charter Affirmation

*The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.*

*It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.*

*We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.*

*We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.*

### **Affirm the Charter for Compassion**

There is no cost to affirm the Charter. Your signature is a public commitment to the principles expressed in this historic document. But we hope that you will also commit to supporting the work of the Charter for Compassion International by contributing according to your ability: become a member of the Charter for Compassion, work as a volunteer, initiate or join a compassionate community initiative, and/or financially support the work of the Charter.

# “Welcoming” Cities Initiative

## WELCOMING CITIES & COUNTIES

Our member municipality program offers learning exchanges on national and international levels. Through your membership, you'll have access to government leaders across the nation who are creating immigrant-friendly, welcoming communities. We invite you share ideas and goals and help us make our country a more prosperous and welcoming place.

## WHAT IS A WELCOMING CITY OR COUNTY?

A Welcoming City or County is one that joins Welcoming America and that:

- **Plans:** All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others, work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
- **Commits:** Municipalities commit to institutionalize strategies ensuring the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.
- **Builds Community:** Newcomers and long-time residents find common ground and shared leadership.
- **Communicates:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voices of leaders, and among residents.
- **Sustains:** Policies and practices are considered to ensure interactions between new and long-time residents remain positive ones and the community's economic vitality remains strong.

The image is a screenshot of the Welcoming America website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: ABOUT, OUR NETWORK, ENGAGE, LEARN, CALENDAR, LOGIN, and a search icon. A 'DONATE' button is also present. Below the navigation bar is a map of the United States with state names labeled. The map is shaded in a light gray color. To the right of the map is a sidebar titled 'OUR NETWORK'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'Welcoming America's national network helps nonprofit and government partners transform their communities into more welcoming places for all people, including immigrants. Participating members can connect with peers to share ideas and tools, and receive recognition for their efforts.' Below this text is a 'FILTER BY:' section with two options: '★ Local Government' and '■ Nonprofit Organization'. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'JOIN TODAY' button.

## WHO SUPPORTS WELCOMING COMMUNITIES?

Our growing network benefits from broad community support from a range of mainstream partners. Represented among the organizations that are collaborating with Welcoming Cities and Counties at the local level are faith, civic and corporate partners, as well as broad bi-partisan support. These include:

- Numerous corporate partners and economic development agencies, as well as local financial institutions, Main Street entrepreneurs, and larger employers.
- Civic partners, ranging from local YMCAs to universities and educational partners.
- Public sector partners, including not only mayors, county executives, governors, and other local and state elected officials, but police chiefs, school board members, and many others, across the political spectrum.
- Local philanthropic partners, from the United Way to community foundations.
- Partners across multiple faiths.

Together, this broad range of welcoming communities and ambassadors are building prosperous futures and stronger communities. We see this reflected in simple things, like more parents participating in PTAs and more entrepreneurs opening businesses on Main Street.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Hear from government leaders who are making the most of diversity, by creating “immigrant-friendly” welcoming plans
- Learn how large and small communities respond to demographic change and support long-term immigrant integration in a way that speaks to and benefits all members of the community
- Access new tools and resources to advance welcoming resolutions, initiatives, and strategies
- Receive support and recognition
- Participate in national and transatlantic learning exchanges that highlight promising practices from globally competitive cities

## TOOLKITS

- Stronger Together Toolkit
- More toolkits and guides

# COMMITMENT FORM

All new Welcoming Cities and Counties cohort members must sign and return a commitment form.

# WELCOMING PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Whether a community wishes to issue a proclamation or resolution as a symbolic act or more formally, to become a recognized Welcoming City or County and Member, we ask that you please reach out to Welcoming America before doing so, so that we can best coordinate with you around proactive communications, as well as to avoid potential pitfalls that can come with public declarations. Read more guidance and see examples.



COMPASSIONATE NASHVILLE IS A CAMPAIGN THAT PROMOTES AND CELEBRATES COMPASSION IN EVERY SECTOR OF SOCIETY. IT CONNECTS INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO CULTIVATING COMPASSION IN THEMSELVES AND IN THE WORLD AND IS PART OF THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION'S INTERNATIONAL COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE, WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF COMPASSIONATE ACTION AND ENCOURAGE CITY LEADERSHIP FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO CREATE AND BRING TOGETHER EFFORTS TOWARDS INCREASING COMPASSION THROUGH LOCAL INITIATIVES, POLICY, AND PROJECTS. VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND EVENTS PAGE.

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# Draft Proclamation

- WHEREAS: compassion is a purpose, principle, and unifying value that guides and compels people of all backgrounds, perspectives, creeds, and cultures to treat all human beings with justice, equity, and respect; and
- WHEREAS: experience has shown that practicing compassion produces positive benefits in all sectors of civic and community life, including safety, public health, physical, mental and spiritual well-being; and
- WHEREAS: the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities is an internationally recognized global movement that calls on each person to treat others as he or she wishes to be treated; and
- WHEREAS: the residents of the City of Kent demonstrate this ethic on a daily basis in their homes, schools, businesses, community organizations and public areas; and
- WHEREAS: Kent is a home to Kent State University that brings peoples of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds and persuasions from all over the world to be our neighbors and share in our hometown; and
- WHEREAS: we wish to honor the spirit of unity that brings neighbors together and makes our community the kind of place that people are proud to call home regardless of their place of birth; and
- WHEREAS: by welcoming the contributions of all people we make our community more vibrant and prosperous; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council of the City of Kent, Ohio, with the unanimous support of the members of Kent City Council do hereby proclaim Kent as a "Compassionate City" and declare the week of November \_\_\_ 2016 as

## "Compassionate City Week"

in the City of Kent and encourage all Kent residents to join together to build a stronger, united community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Kent, Ohio, to be affixed this \_\_\_ day of November, 2016

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*Mayor*

(9)

**Syrian Refugee Families Assistance**

4 messages

Dave Ruller &lt;rullerd@kent-ohio.org&gt;

Thu, Sep 29, 2016 at 10:56 AM

To: "wallach@math.kent.edu.GWIA.Kent\_PD\_Domain" <wallach@math.kent.edu>, Dave Ruller <RullerD@kent-ohio.org>, "garrettferrara@att.net" <garrettferrara@att.net>, Heidi Shaffer <hshaffer1@neo.r.com>, Jack Amrhein <Jamr964@aol.com>, Jerry Fiala <javerage@att.net>, John Kuhar <j.kuhar@att.net>, Melissa Long <mimionthego@neo.r.com>, Mike Deleone <mdeleone@kent.edu>, Robin Turner <robing13@hotmail.com>, Roger Sidoti <rsidoti@sbcglobal.net>, Suzanne Robertson <RobertsonS@kent-ohio.org>, Clerk of Council <kentclerk@kent-ohio.org>  
Cc: Bridget Susel <SuselB@kent-ohio.org>

Good Morning,

I had a chance to do a little research on your motion to explore sponsoring a Syrian Refugee family.

I reached out to Congressman Ryan's Office to learn a little more about the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program and they re-directed me locally to the Akron International Institute.

The Akron International Institute leads the Refugee Resettlement Program in our region and I talked with the Director of the Program to better understand what's being done and where help is needed. The Director said that "sponsoring" or "adopting" a refugee family is a bit misleading; most of what they need is help providing the families with the supplies of daily life, e.g., chairs, mattresses, lamps, furnishings, etc.

Different groups have done furnishing drives or made cash contributions, either or both are welcome. The Director noted that providing housing is complicated because it is a Federal program with a lot of regulatory issues which is why providing household items and furnishings is a great option -- especially blankets and warm weather clothes since most of these families have not been through a winter like northeast Ohio before. Some groups have supplied "Welcome Baskets" that include the kinds of daily essentials that most of us take for granted.

For those that are interested and have the time, there is a "Mentor" Program where local people can go through a fairly extensive training before they are assigned a local refugee family to serve as their mentor. Mentorship requires a higher level of commitment with frequent visits with the family to help them go through their bills, their mail, make phone calls for them, etc.,

For the City, the Director pointed me in the direction of the "Welcoming Cities and Counties" Project. This national effort provides resources and assistance to help cities and counties take the steps needed to truly be "welcoming" to refugees and international visitors. Joining the movement starts with a resolution committing the City to follow a series of steps that have proven to be best practices in other welcoming cities.

Based on the data from the Welcoming Cities and Counties web site, it looks like only the cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Akron have officially passed resolutions committing to be in the Welcoming Project in Ohio (it appears that Cleveland's efforts are being led by a local nonprofit rather than the City itself). I've attached some of the Welcoming Cities maps and resource documents to this email for more information.

Also, here's some links for the "Welcoming Cities and Counties" Project:

<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/programs/member-municipalities#>

<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/programs/our-network>

The Director of the Refugee Resettlement Office at the Akron International Institute said that she'd be happy to come talk to Council in a future Committee meeting if you think that would be helpful.

I think this motion was made in the spirit of offering help to people in need but a recent article in Crains also mentioned the economic benefits resulting from assisting refugee relocate in our region -- so this can be supported as more than just charity (the article is listed below).

## Collaborative spotlights refugees' financial impact

September 25, 2016 UPDATED A DAY AGO

Comments Email Print

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By RACHEL ABBEY MCCAFFERTY

The Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland wants people to know that refugees aren't a negative force on the economy. In fact, they're the opposite.

"They're a boost to the economy," said Danielle Drake, chairwoman of the public affairs committee for the collaborative.

Drake also is the community relations manager for Us Together Inc., one of the three refugee resettlement agencies in the collaborative. The collaborative was founded in 2011 and includes a variety of education and government resource groups, in addition to refugee resettlement organizations Us Together, Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants' Cleveland office.

Last Thursday, Sept. 22, the collaborative held a showing of four short documentaries highlighting the effect of refugees on the economy as part of Welcoming Week, which Drake described as a national initiative designed to get American-born individuals to get to know their refugee and immigrant neighbors.

This is the second year of the collaborative's short film series. The first year focused on human interest stories; the second year's focus is on economic impact, though the films included plenty of personal details about the refugees featured. They worked at a variety of companies including a manufacturer, a beauty salon and the Jack Cleveland Casino.

Both sets of films have been funded by the Community West Foundation. This year, the collaborative received \$30,000 for the films, Drake said in an email. The collaborative hired a creative director to oversee the program, as well as local filmmakers to make the documentaries.

The first year of films served as a non-confrontational marketing tool, she said, and was "so well received" the group decided to focus on the economic impact of refugees for the second year. The collaborative had a lot of data from an in-depth economic study it did in 2012, but some people are better at absorbing visuals, she said.

The collaborative allows the resettlement agencies to come together to work on these bigger projects, like the films and the economic report, said Tom Mrosko, director of Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. These types of projects are things the agencies have wanted to do, he said, but that can be difficult to balance with the actual work of resettling refugees.

"Working together, we're able to tackle these macro issues," Mrosko said.

The key work of the resettlement agencies in Cleveland is to get the refugees here, settled and in a job, Mrosko said. The collaborative wants to raise awareness of the benefits refugees bring: They may be multilingual and many have strong work ethic and drive, he said. They can also help to diversify a workforce.

"Refugees might be one way to get solid employees," Mrosko said.

Brian S. Upton, executive director of faith-based organization Building Hope in the City, which offers resettlement assistance in the city as one of its services, said employment is a major "hurdle" the community needs to get over, particularly noting entry-level positions at manufacturers. And Drake noted that refugee resettlement could be an answer to Cleveland's decreasing population.

But the key will be getting that message to companies that don't already open their doors to refugees. The films will be available on YouTube, but Drake said the hope is that they'll get invited to do film presentations and Q-and-A sessions. Thursday's event was just the start of a yearlong, grassroots campaign, Upton said.

#### 6 attachments

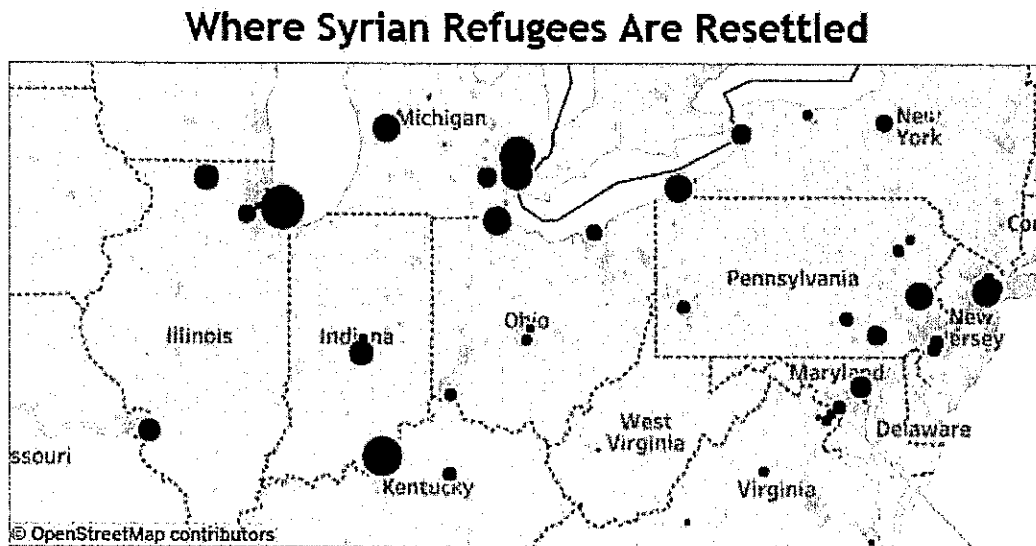
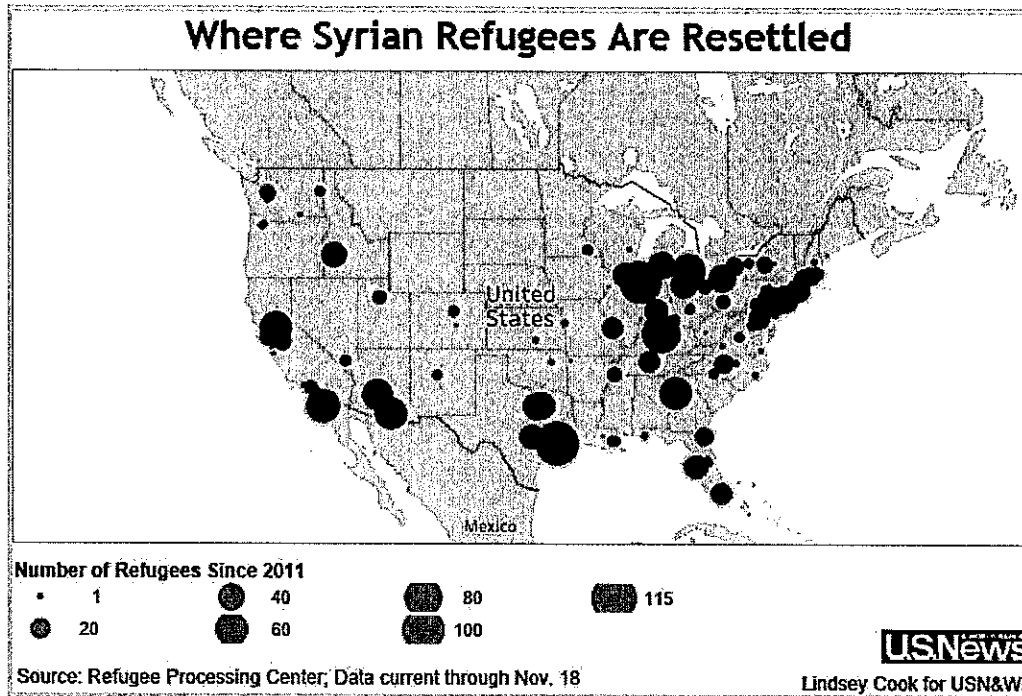
Where Syrian Refugees Are Resettled



RefugeeSettlementOhio.jpg  
37K



# Syrian Refugee Assistance Referral



# The International Institute of Akron [IIA] Resettlement Services Provided

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IIA participates in the U.S. Reception and Placement Program (R&P). This program is defined and highly regulated by the U.S. State Department. IIA has several R&P case managers that work with clients to provide services.

**“R&P Period”** means an initial **thirty (30)** day period that can be extended up to ninety (90) days after arrival should more than thirty (30) days be required to complete R&P Program requirements.

## R&P Services

- Basic needs support including housing, food, clothing and other necessities
- Securing safe, sanitary, affordable housing
- Airport reception
- Hot, ready, culturally appropriate meal
- Applying for public benefits (TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, WIC)
- Applying for social security card
- Health Screening appointment
- Assistance accessing necessary health and mental health services
- Enrolling in English classes
- Enrolling in Employment services
- Registering children for school
- Transportation to job interviews and training
- Registering for Selective Service (when appropriate)
- Cultural orientation
- Suitability assessments for minors with non-parental guardians

## Items Provided

All items provided are purchased using the clients' resettlement money unless the items have been donated to IIA. Clients receive between \$925 and \$1125 per person as resettlement money. They are responsible for purchasing all furniture, household items, food, rent, utilities and other items that they may need. IIA does not purchase any items for clients using IIA funds.

Items required in each household (per federal requirements):

- Beds appropriate for age and gender. Married couples and small children of the same gender may share a bed.
- One set of sheets\*, one blanket\*, one pillow and pillowcase\* per person.
- One set of drawers or other unit of storage in addition to a closet unless the closet has shelving, per family.
- One kitchen table per family, one kitchen chair per person
- One couch or equivalent, per family
- One lamp per room unless installed lighting is present\*
- One place setting of tableware and one place setting of dishes per person\*
- Food preparation utensils including at least one sauce pan, one frying pan, one baking dish,

- mixing/serving bowls, one set of kitchen utensils and one can opener per family\*
- One bath towel per person\*
  - One alarm clock per person
  - Paper, pens and/or pencils
  - Cleaning supplies including dish soap, bathroom/kitchen cleaner, sponges, paper towels, laundry detergent, two waste baskets, mop or broom, trash bags\*
  - Toiletries including toilet paper, shampoo, soap, one toothbrush per person, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene items as appropriate\*
  - Baby items as needed
  - Appropriate seasonal clothing
  - Food or food allowance
  - Pocket money

\*These items are often donated to IIA and can be given to client free of charge without using client's resettlement money. All other items are purchased with client money.

NOTE: Items not required/not given to client include:

- Washer/dryer
- TV
- Rice cooker
- Microwave
- Phone
- Computer
- Internet
- Car

**International Institute of Akron  
Resettlement Activities**

Upon arrival in Summit County all new refugees must participate in a number of activities that are mandated by the United States Department of State. The International Institute of Akron assists new refugees in obtaining needed services and completing all necessary appointments. Mandated activities are listed below:

**Home Visit: (Next calendar day after arrival):** Case manager or assistant must visit the client at their home and discuss housing and health and well-being.

**Home Visit: (30 days after arrival):** Case manager or assistant must visit the client at their home and discuss housing and health and well-being.

**Intake Interview: (Within 5 working days of arrival):** Case manager must complete an intake interview with the client and family discussing the resettlement program, short and long term goals and what to expect over the next several weeks.

**Applying for Benefits: (Within 7 working days of arrival):** IIA staff must assist client in applying for benefits at Job and Family Services including TANF, RCA, Medicaid and Food Assistance.

**Other Public Assistance (Within 7 working days of arrival):** IIA staff must assist client in applying and attending appointments for other benefits such as WIC; SSI, etc.

**Social Security (within 7 working days of arrival):** All refugees must go to the social security office within 14 working days of arrival to get social security cards.

**Employment Services (Within 10 working days of arrival):** All refugees must be referred to employment services. They must enroll in RSSP if they are receiving RCA. Employment services include:

**Job Skills Class:** Clients learn to complete job applications, interviewing techniques, job skills such as punctuality, calling off, etc. are taught. Tuesday and Thursdays from 1:30—3:00 for 4 weeks. (Mandatory for Matching Grant clients.)

**English language classes (Within 10 working days of arrival):** Refugees must enroll in ESOL classes within 10 days of arrival. Assessments are done on Monday and Wednesday mornings at IIA. Classes are held 4 days a weeks for two hours a day at IIA.

**Social Security (within 7 working days of arrival):** All refugees must go to the social security office within 14 working days of arrival to get social security cards.

**Cultural Orientation Activities:** Each client must attend IIA's four day cultural orientation. Other activities are optional but are important to help clients assimilate to their new culture.

**Cultural Orientation: (Mandatory)** Provides information on a wide-variety of necessary topics such as laws, fire safety, health and hygiene, etc. Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month (Tuesday—Friday from 9:00 a.m.—12:30p.m)

**Walking Tour (Optional but helpful for North Hill residents);** A walking tour of the North Hill neighborhood with stops at Peoples Bank, North Hill Library, CVS Pharmacy and the US Post Office. Held every Friday from 11:00 a.m.—1:30p.m.

**Bus Training (Optional but helpful):** Provides training on riding the Metro Bus. Typical route is from the International Institute to the Job Center. Every Thursday from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**Job Skills Class: (Optional but helpful)** Provides information on basic skills that clients need to learn such as paying bills, scheduling appointments, etc. Meets the first and second Wednesday of the month from 1:30p.m.—3:00p.m.

**Financial Literacy class (Optional)**—this class teaches basic skills such as currency, counting and basic math along with higher skills including credit, banking, etc. (Held Tuesdays from 10:00a.m.—11:30 a.m.).

**Health Appointments: (Mandatory)**—Each refugee must have a health screening with Summit County Public Health within 30 days of arrival. Appointments take a minimum of 2-3 hours.

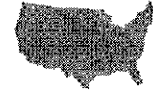
**Follow up appointments:** Follow up appointments are made with both a primary care doctor and dentist within the first 1-2 months of arrival.

**Class A Conditions:** Conditions identified as Class A prior to arrival require a follow up appointment here within 7 days of arrival.

**Class B Conditions:** Conditions identified as Class B conditions prior to arrival require a follow up within 4-6 weeks.

**Vaccinations:** Summit County Public Health schedules follow up appointments to ensure that all refugees receive all required vaccinations.

**School Enrollment (Within 30 days after date of arrival):** All school-aged refugee children must be enrolled by their parents in school within 30 days of arrival.



### COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING CITIES & COUNTIES COHORT

As representatives of local government, we recognize that cities and communities that proactively welcome newcomers and take steps to ensure their successful integration will be strategically positioned as globally competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders.

We therefore resolve to participate in the *Welcoming Cities and Counties Cohort* and commit to taking the following initial steps toward creating an environment that is receptive to immigrants, and that unlocks the full potential of all members of the community:

- Advance a municipal or county-level proclamation or resolution declaring our locality to be a welcoming one
- Find ways to institutionalize welcoming efforts through the adoption of policies and practices that promote inclusion within local government and the broader community
- Join a cohort of cities and counties that have pledged to become more welcoming
- Appoint at least one key municipal staff contact for the project
- Participate in three conference calls each year to share and learn from promising practices from other Welcoming Cities and Counties
- Participate in an annual in-person meeting with other Welcoming Cities and Counties (dependent upon available travel resources)

City or County Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF: CONSIDERATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION:

The Obama Administration's recent announcement to grant administrative relief to as many as 3.7 million immigrants—on top of the estimated 1.3 million eligible for DACA—has tremendous implications for communities across the U.S., and local stakeholders – including policymakers, employers, and service providers – have important roles to play in its implementation.

Over the past few decades, cities have begun to develop infrastructure within local government to facilitate the economic, civic and cultural integration of immigrants – through the establishment of Offices of Immigrant Affairs/New Americans, the implementation of language access and confidentiality policies, by strengthening ties with community organizations that directly serve immigrants, and by creating welcoming initiatives that bring these components together. This infrastructure is, in turn, a strong foundation for administrative relief implementation.

This guide outlines immediate and short-term considerations for local officials in the process of administrative relief implementation, as well as improving prospects for long-term integration.

### What is this guide?

This document is designed to be a resource for local governments as they prepare for and implement administrative relief. It provides a general framework for municipalities to consider, though responses should be tailored to fit the local context. It includes links to research and resources developed by a number of different stakeholders that may be helpful.

### What is deferred action?

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, President Obama announced that his administration will take action to provide administrative relief from deportation to up to 3.7 million immigrants, on top of the estimated 1.3 million currently eligible for DACA. More details from the White House and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are available here:

- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/20/fact-sheet-immigration-accountability-executive-action>: This fact sheet provides an overview of the executive action, including enhanced enforcement efforts, prioritizing removal of people who pose national security and public safety threats, expansion of the DACA program and deferred action for certain parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- <http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-action>: DHS's overview of executive action, with links to directives issued by DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson to implement the action.
- <http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction>: USCIS's overview of executive action, which will be updated over time as implementation begins

### Who should be involved in the response?





- Local elected officials, policymakers and other government representatives whose leadership is key to successful implementation
- City agencies that may hold key records (e.g., school records, health records, other identifying information) necessary in the administrative relief application process
- Community organizations that serve immigrant communities (e.g., health clinics, after school programs, legal service providers, faith institutions).
- Respected leaders in the immigrant community who can serve as trusted sources of information.
- Immigrant residents who may or may not be covered by administrative relief, and who may be at risk of being defrauded by unscrupulous notarios or other fraudsters
- Employers who may be impacted by administrative relief as well as changes to legal immigration for entrepreneurs and high-skilled workers
- The broader community – everyone is affected by administrative relief, and it is important to educate and engage all residents on this issue

#### **Why is a response important?**

- Build long-term capacity: administrative relief implementation can help build capacity for long-term immigrant integration efforts through the development of new resources and partnerships
- Reduce backlash to administrative relief by providing key messages about immigrants' important contributions to the economy and the community
- Protect residents from immigration, tax, consumer and other 'notario' fraud
- Maximize the economic contributions of residents who may be eligible for administrative relief
- Increase civic participation and engagement among all residents, leading to growth of energy and vibrancy in the community

#### **OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Minimize the spread of potentially harmful misinformation by quickly and regularly updating the immigrant community with the latest information about what administrative relief is and what it is not (e.g., not legislation, not a path to citizenship, not permanent lawful status, etc.), and what the timeline for implementation will be (e.g., the application period is not open yet). Ideally this information should be made available in all relevant languages. Trusted immigrant leaders and community organizations should be key partners for getting out this information.
2. Determine, to the extent possible, how many residents in the community may be directly impacted by administrative relief and which community organizations and government departments work most directly with those residents.

WELCOMING  
AMERICA



Building a Nation of Neighbors

AS

COA

3. Communicate to the public the benefits of administrative relief (see Welcoming America administrative relief messaging guidance), and the benefits of immigration generally, to minimize backlash.
4. Inform the public about how to prevent, identify, and report immigration and other fraud. Ideally, this information should be made available in all relevant languages.
5. Identify the processes for retrieving key documents from public schools, public hospitals and other agencies that may help individuals document continued residence in the U.S. and that they have a U.S. citizen child (e.g., birth certificates, hospital records, school records), streamline those processes to the extent possible, and publicize those processes. Ideally this information should be provided in all relevant languages and in partnership with community leaders and organizations trusted by immigrant residents.
6. Direct the public, including families with eligible individuals in detention or facing imminent deportation, to qualified free and low-cost legal service providers, help coordinate and expand the availability of free and low-cost legal services to help individuals apply, and consult local community based organizations about how local government can best serve the interests of the community.
7. Work to address financial hurdles to applying (e.g., by helping individuals access bank accounts, creating a new microloan product, etc.).
8. Engage local financial and philanthropic institutions in support of implementation.
9. Work with agencies and community-based organizations to structure "life after deferred action" curricula to educate newly work-authorized individuals about their rights in the workplace, access to driver's licenses, and similar issues.

#### DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Minimize the spread of potentially harmful misinformation by quickly and regularly updating the immigrant community with the latest information about what administrative relief is and what it is not (e.g., not a path to citizenship, not permanent legal status, etc.), and what the timeline for implementation will be (e.g., the application period is not open yet). Ideally this information should be made available in all relevant languages. Trusted immigrant leaders and community organizations should be key partners for getting out this information.**

Following the June 15, 2012 announcement of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), there was a two-month implementation period before applications were accepted. During this period, it was important to inform the public that an application process was not yet in place to prevent immigration fraud. To the extent possible, individuals were also advised to begin collecting documents demonstrating their continuous presence in the U.S. As more details about the process were revealed, more details about acceptable documentation were provided to the public. Cities should consider the following steps with respect to administrative relief:

- Inform residents that until the implementation period begins, there is no application process in place

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- Caution residents about the possibility of immigration fraud – how to prevent, recognize and report it
  - Advise individuals planning to seek administrative relief to begin collecting personal documents (e.g., birth records, health records, receipts) that may help them demonstrate eligibility
2. **Determine, to the extent possible, how many residents in the community may be directly impacted by administrative relief and which community organizations and government departments work most directly with those residents.**

Understanding the scope of the impact of administrative relief is key to crafting an appropriate response. The Migration Policy Institute has developed several helpful resources with national, state, and, in some cases, county-level figures on populations eligible for DACA and administrative relief.

- National and state figures for administrative relief: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/mpi-many-37-million-unauthorized-immigrants-could-get-relief-deportation-under-anticipated-new>
  - Select county-level figures for DACA: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/county-level-view-daca-population-finds-surprising-amount-ethnic-enrollment-diversity>
3. **Communicate to the public the benefits of administrative relief (see Welcoming America administrative relief messaging guidance), and the benefits of immigration generally, to minimize backlash**

National data on the economic benefits of administrative relief/legalization

- A newly-released national study from the Fiscal Policy Institute finds that administrative relief should result in a 5-10% increase in wages for individuals who gain work authorization: <http://fiscalspolicy.org/presidents-immigration-action-expected-to-benefit-economy>
- 2013 report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy looks at undocumented immigrants' state and local tax contributions and the impact of comprehensive immigration reform on those contributions: <http://www.itep.org/immigration/#map>

National, state and local data on the economic benefits of immigration

- National studies: [www.renewoureconomy.org/research](http://www.renewoureconomy.org/research)
  - State-level data: [www.maptheimpact.org](http://www.maptheimpact.org)
  - County-level data on housing values: [www.renewoureconomy.org/housingmap](http://www.renewoureconomy.org/housingmap)
4. **Inform the public about how to prevent, identify, and report immigration fraud. Ideally this information should be made available in all relevant languages.**



“Notarios” and other non-lawyer immigration service providers are likely to take advantage of immigrants following the announcement of administrative relief by claiming to be able to help individuals get green cards or citizenship, go through an expedited process, etc. Other potential areas of fraud include paid tax preparers who may improperly complete tax returns for new immigrant taxpayers and predatory lenders for applicants unable to pay the filing fees. USCIS, the IRS, the FTC and other organizations provide resources to help educate individuals about how to avoid fraud.

Cities can:

- Provide information to the public about how to prevent, identify, and report immigration fraud
- Engage the police department, consumer protection agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to assist in cracking down on “notarios” and fraudulent immigration service providers and assisting victims of fraud
- Promote and increase the availability of free and low-cost qualified legal service providers to provide a safe alternative

More resources on fraud:

- Stop Notario Fraud: <http://www.stopnotariofraud.org/>
- USCIS Avoid Scams: <http://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams>

Federal Trade Commission free publications for consumers:  
<https://bulkorder.ftc.gov/publications>

- Sample Press Release: <http://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-issues-consumer-alert-scams-targeting>

5. **Identify the processes for retrieving key documents from public schools, public hospitals and other agencies that may help individuals demonstrate eligibility (e.g., birth certificates, hospital records), streamline those processes to the extent possible, and publicize those processes. Ideally this information should be provided in all relevant languages and in partnership with community leaders and organizations trusted by immigrant residents.**

In order to request administrative relief, individuals will need to provide certain documentation proving their eligibility.

- City agencies may own some of these documents (e.g., birth records, health records)
- City agencies should identify the existing process for retrieving these documents
- Cities can convene interagency task forces to streamline and publicize the process for retrieving city-owned documents (e.g., call this phone number to retrieve health records, etc.)



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- The documents below were published by USCIS as acceptable proof for each piece of DACA. Because the requirements are likely to be different, the next round of administrative relief may require documents not included here:

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

- |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proof of identity                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passport or national identity document from your country of origin</li><li>• Birth certificate with photo identification</li><li>• School or military ID with photo</li><li>• Any U.S. government immigration or other document bearing your name and photo</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Proof you came to U.S. before your 16th birthday           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passport with admission stamp</li><li>• Form I-94/I-95/I-94W</li><li>• School records from the U.S. schools you have attended</li><li>• Any Immigration and Naturalization Service or DHS document stating your date of entry (Form I-862, Notice to Appear)</li><li>• Travel records</li><li>• Hospital or medical records</li><li>• Employment records (pay stubs, W-2 Forms, etc.)</li><li>• Official records from a religious entity confirming participation in a religious ceremony</li><li>• Copies of money order receipts for money sent in or out of the country</li><li>• Birth certificates of children born in the U.S.</li><li>• Dated bank transactions</li><li>• Automobile license receipts or registration</li><li>• Deeds, mortgages, rental agreement contracts</li><li>• Tax receipts, insurance policies</li></ul> |
| Proof of immigration status                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Form I-94/I-95/I-94W with authorized stay expiration date</li><li>• Final order of exclusion, deportation, or removal issued as of June 15, 2012</li><li>• A charging document placing you into removal proceedings</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Proof of presence in U.S. on June 15, 2012                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rent receipts or utility bills</li><li>• Employment records (pay stubs, W-2 Forms, etc)</li><li>• School records (letters, report cards, etc)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Proof you continuously resided in U.S. since June 15, 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Military records (Form DD-214 or NGB Form 22)</li><li>• Official records from a religious entity confirming participation in a religious ceremony</li><li>• Copies of money order receipts for money sent in or out of the country</li><li>• Passport entries</li><li>• Birth certificates of children born in the U.S.</li><li>• Dated bank transactions</li><li>• Automobile license receipts or registration</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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Proof of your student status at the time of requesting DACA

- Deeds, mortgages, rental agreement contracts
- Tax receipts, insurance policies
- Official records (transcripts, report cards, etc) from the school that you are currently attending in the United States.
- U.S. high school diploma or certificate of completion
- U.S. GED certificate

**6. Direct the public, including families with eligible individuals in detention or facing imminent deportation, to qualified free and low-cost legal service providers, help coordinate and expand the availability of free and low-cost legal services to help individuals apply, and consult local community based organizations how local government can best serve the interests of the community**

Free and low-cost legal service providers are key to implementation. Although some individuals' cases will be straightforward, others will be complicated and may require legal expertise in order to determine whether it is safe/advisable to submit for consideration to USCIS.

- Existing qualified legal service providers should be promoted (e.g., by listing on a website, flyers, etc.).
- The Mayor's Office can assist be helping to recruit additional pro bono attorneys from law firms that may be interested in providing support and finding opportunities for them to plug into organizations serving immigrant communities
- BIA-accredited organizations can help expand the capacity and infrastructure to provide immigration legal services. More information here: <http://www.ilrc.org/info-on-immigration-law/bia-accreditation>

**7. Work to address financial hurdles to applying (e.g., by helping individuals access bank accounts, creating a new microloan product, etc.)**

USCIS is a fee-based agency where the costs of a program are covered through the application fees. The fees for submitting an application for administrative relief will be \$465, which covers the costs of a work permit and a background check. It is not yet known if fee waivers will be available. Additionally, there may be associated costs (e.g., document collection, legal fees, etc.).

Citizenship microloans, DACA microloans and other financial products and opportunities have been created to help individuals cover the cost of applying. The City can:

- Engage foundations, financial institutions and other partners in conversations about how to reduce financial hurdles to applying for administrative relief

More information from Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees:  
[https://www.gcir.org/sites/default/files/resources/DACA%20Loan%20One-Page%203.18.13\\_0.pdf](https://www.gcir.org/sites/default/files/resources/DACA%20Loan%20One-Page%203.18.13_0.pdf)

**8. Engage local financial and philanthropic institutions in support of implementation**

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Funding for information campaigns, legal services, financial assistance and other aspects of implementation has been supported by philanthropic partners in the past.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees has created a map of grantmaking in the U.S. for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Implementation:  
[http://gis.foundationcenter.org/gcir\\_map/](http://gis.foundationcenter.org/gcir_map/)

9. **Work with agencies and community-based organizations to structure “life after deferred action” curricula to educate newly work-authorized individuals about their rights in the workplace, access to driver’s licenses, and similar issues.**

A national survey of DACA beneficiaries identified several key economic and social benefits resulting from DACA: Approximately 61% of DACA recipients surveyed have obtained a new job, over half have opened their first bank account, 38% have obtained their first credit card, and 61% have obtained a driver’s license.

Educating individuals about the benefits they are eligible for after receiving deferred action, as well as preparing agencies and CBOs to help individuals access those benefits, will raise prospects for meaningful long-term integration.

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# STRONGER TOGETHER

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Making the Case for Shared  
Prosperity Through Welcoming  
Immigrants In Our Communities

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WELCOMING

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▲ *Building a Nation of Neighbors*

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This country is built on the  
contributions of immigrants, whose  
different perspectives and ideas

**CREATE NEW  
POSSIBILITIES FOR  
ALL AMERICANS.**

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**ROBERT IGER, CEO & President, Disney**



A welcoming community isn't just tolerant  
of newcomers and cultural diversity.

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# A TRULY WELCOMING COMMUNITY

actively seeks to engage  
all of its residents—  
including immigrants.

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It embraces the contributions they make  
and leverage the assets they bring for the  
benefit of the whole community.

As the movement to create more welcoming communities across the country has expanded, more and more people are interested in hearing how welcoming our immigrant neighbors can be a force for economic growth.

This toolkit is intended to help advocates for immigrant integration connect with and enlist the support of people who are more interested in constructive conversations about shared prosperity than divisive arguments about immigration policy—local government officials and business leaders, small business owners and community boosters—people who know that their communities, and their businesses, are stronger when everyone in them feels welcomed and included.

On the following pages, you'll find information on the key audiences likely to be moved by this messaging, and themes to explore in your communications work. You'll also find ideas about how to use data to support your argument, pitfalls to avoid and exercises designed to help you craft the messages that make the most sense for your community.

Although the messages recommended in this toolkit are pragmatic in nature and focused on the economic benefits a community receives by welcoming immigrants, each of them is still rooted in the core values of the welcoming movement—the belief that we are all better off when everyone who lives in a community feels like a part of it.

It's our hope that you'll use these messages to make new connections and find new partners as you work to make your city or town more welcoming—a community with fewer strangers and more neighbors.



**DAVID LUBELL**

Welcoming America

## AUDIENCES

The cornerstone of any successful communications effort is understanding who your audience is and what they really care about. It's important to help them see how your work is an expression of their values, and how their support of your work will help them achieve their vision of success—for their company, the community or our entire society.

The following audiences are offered as a starting point for thinking about your own audiences—groups that we believe may be open to economy-focused arguments for building a more welcoming community. The exercise on the next page is designed to help you think through the specific audiences for your own work.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

have been at the forefront of making an economic argument for immigrant integration in communities across the country, from Chicago to Houston to Dayton, Ohio. As civic boosters for their city, town or county, they are interested in leveraging the human capital in their communities into a competitive advantage that attracts new businesses and individuals looking for new opportunity, broadening the tax base in the process and allowing their communities to provide high-quality services that attract other newcomers. The chance to reach new residents of their communities—who might be turned into new voters—is an added benefit.

### APPOINTED OFFICIALS

are those individuals in local government charged with running their communities—city managers, chiefs of police, heads of offices of economic or workforce development. Ensuring that the services provided by their offices are reaching all of their community's residents is often a point of professional pride for members of this audience. They also have a vested interest in seeing greater cooperation between different parts of their community, new connections made and increased prosperity. They succeed when their communities succeed.

### BUSINESS COMMUNITY LEADERS

have a variety of reasons for supporting more welcoming communities. As business owners or Chamber of Commerce members, they want to see a growing economy that brings new customers to their business and makes it easier to attract new talent. They may see immigrants as potential customers for their business or recognize how immigrant entrepreneurs have helped revitalize a downtown business district. More than any other audience, they are likely to be open to an argument about how immigrants are contributing to their bottom line.

### IMMIGRANT EMPLOYERS

are leaders at companies with a large immigrant workforce. Often, they have seen the benefits of immigrant integration efforts within their companies in improved morale or increased productivity—but sometimes they don't recognize the policies they've implemented to be more welcoming to immigrants as part of any kind of concerted effort. Explaining how their efforts fit into a larger context—and the benefits to be gained when similar policies are adopted at a community-wide level—is key to gaining their support.

## YOUR TURN

Think about the people in your community you think might be open to an economic argument about being more welcoming. Do they fit into one (or more) of the categories above? Or are they part of another category?

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

Describe their demographics (age, race, socio-economic background):

Describe their day-to-day lives (what kind of car do they drive? What does their family life look like?). What do they care most about—what values do they hold that your organization holds?

What's stopping them from supporting your work?

Who do they trust? These individuals or groups could carry your messages to them.

Where do they get their information? Consider earned media (e.g. an Op Ed by a business leader in the local business journal) paid media, or direct outreach (e.g. presentation to city council or Chamber of Commerce) to connect through these channels.

Keep your answers for each audience in mind as you create messages for them later in the kit.

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Throughout its history, Chicago has benefited from the immeasurable economic contributions of its immigrant populations, and from the rich fabric of distinct and vibrant neighborhoods they helped to create. Today, Chicago's immigrants remain crucial drivers of our economic growth and cultural vitality. As we build a thriving 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, we must work together to attract and retain immigrants by helping them to succeed and grow in

# **A SAFE AND WELCOMING CITY.**

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**ADOLFO HERNANDEZ**, Director of Chicago's Office of New Americans

## MESSAGE THEMES

The messages you create for your initiative should speak directly to the concerns of your intended audiences. Below you will find a number of potential themes, with sample messages for each, along with some ideas for the kinds of audiences with which each will be most effective.

Remember that while the themes below are pragmatic and focused on economic benefits, they are still rooted in values rather than a transactional or numbers-first approach to communications. As you develop messaging to reach key audiences in local government or the business community, it's a good idea to remind yourself of the values at the core of the Welcoming movement: inclusion, cooperation, and building more prosperous, connected and successful communities.

The sample messages below are meant to make a connection with key audience members, while also providing them with language to make the case for a more welcoming community themselves, as ambassadors for your work.

### STRONGER TOGETHER

Our community's success depends on making sure everyone who's a part of it—including immigrants—feels welcome here.

Becoming a more welcoming community means more customers for our local businesses, more jobs created by immigrant entrepreneurs, and a thriving economy that benefits us all.

By recognizing the contributions that we all make to creating a vibrant culture and a growing economy, we make our neighbors feel more included and our community more welcoming to new Americans and to everyone who calls our community home.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** This theme is closest to the Welcoming movement's core messaging around welcoming and inclusion. It is the most broadly applicable theme, and especially useful in communities experiencing significant immigration. It could be used with both local government officials and business leaders.

### INNOVATION

Immigrants are innovators: entrepreneurs and small-business owners whose contributions are helping us grow our local economy.

Immigrants bring new ideas and a willingness to work hard to see them succeed. They start businesses that bring jobs to our community—and that's good for all of us.

We need to welcome everyone with the ingenuity and innovative ideas to help us create a thriving economy.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** This theme could be employed with local government officials, both elected and appointed, or with leaders of the business community.

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**VIBRANT  
COMMUNITIES**

Immigrants are a vital part of our community—they bring fresh perspective and new ideas, start businesses and contribute to the vibrant diversity that we all value.

Immigrants make a huge contribution to the cultural fabric of our community—making it a place all kinds of people want to come and be a part of.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** This theme could be effective with many audiences, but is particularly useful in communities with large immigrant populations or existing diversity (e.g. university towns), or with business owners who employ immigrants.

*[Atlanta]* isn't competing with Birmingham and Chattanooga, it is competing with New York, Chicago, Shanghai, and Mumbai."

Atlanta's unparalleled economic and population boom is attributed "both to entrepreneurial immigrants determined to succeed in America and to Atlanta's own determination to capture the world's imagination, capital and talent.

**"FOCUS ON ATLANTA."** Partnership for a New American Economy

**TWENTY-FIRST  
CENTURY  
ECONOMY**

Competing in a twenty-first century economy will require taking full advantage of our most important resource—our people. And that means welcoming the new Americans who are starting businesses, committing to our community, and helping build a stronger local economy.

Communities across the country and around the world are in a race to the top to attract the human capital that will allow them to thrive in a global economy. Becoming a more welcoming place for immigrants gives us a leg up in that competition and helps us retain talented people of all backgrounds.

Working together to build a twenty-first century economy means making sure everyone who lives here feels welcome and included, no matter where they were born.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** This theme is most effective with government officials and business leaders in larger cities interested in competing for talent and businesses at a national or international level.

**SHARED  
VALUES**

Our community was built by immigrants—hard-working people, our parents and grandparents, who believed in the American Dream. We should welcome those who are following in their footsteps and doing their part to create a thriving community.

From those who cook the food that we eat to those who create innovative businesses, new immigrants realize the value of working hard and doing your part to help build a stronger community.

When you look at immigrants in our community, you see people who share our values—people working hard to provide for their families and build a stronger economy for all of us.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** This theme is broadly applicable with both business and government officials, as well as a wider audience of the Unsure—people who are open to the idea of creating a more welcoming community, but unsure of what to make of the debate around the subject.

Without the energy and intellect and innovation of our immigrant community, Montgomery County would, quite simply, be incomplete. “New Americans” are a critical piece in building a better future for all County residents.

**IKE LEGGET**, Executive of Montgomery County, Maryland.

**FRIENDLINESS**

Our community has always been a welcoming community. We don't care where you came from or what you look like, we care about what kind of person you are.

We want people to know that our community is always willing to extend a hand in friendship to those who want to be a part of it.

Around here, we take neighborliness seriously. It's just who we are.

Around here, teamwork isn't just a slogan. Our company prides itself on making sure everyone who works here feels welcome—like a part of our team.

**WHO TO USE IT WITH:** While not specifically focused on the economic benefits immigrants bring, you might consider using this theme with elected officials or business leaders. These messages should be highly localized and draw on traditional understanding of a community's welcoming nature (e.g. “southern hospitality.”)

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Nothing is more powerful to remaking  
Detroit as a center of innovation,  
entrepreneurship and population  
growth, than embracing and increasing  
immigrant populations and the

**ENTREPRENEURIAL  
CULTURE AND GLOBAL  
CONNECTIONS THAT THEY  
BRING AND DELIVER.**

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Global Detroit Study, 2010





0.1

CHARLES  
**JET 3**

**plumpy'nut**

Ready to Use Emergency Food (RUTF)  
for children with severe malnutrition

## THE BOTTOM LINE

More than many people, the local government officials and business leaders who make up the key audiences for this messaging are interested in the bottom line—the facts and figures that demonstrate the economic contributions immigrants are making to their community or company. Because of this, it's a good idea to support your messaging with numbers to back up your claims.

Remember that numbers (and facts in general) are almost never persuasive by themselves. They need to be placed in the context of the story you're telling about immigration in your community and used to support values-based messaging. Numbers are important, but connecting with your audiences on an emotional level is even more important.

A number of organizations have made the case for the economic benefits of immigration at the national level, and some of their figures may be useful in making your case. But even more important is understanding the economic impact of immigration in your local community.

You may be lucky enough to have data on the subject already compiled for you, as was the case in when the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Economics Department and Office of Latino/ Latina American Studies partnered on Nebraska's Immigrant Population: Economic and Fiscal Impacts. More likely, you may need to do some research yourself. Among the questions you will want to answer are:

*How many immigrant-owned business are in your community, and how much revenue are they generating?*

*What is the dollar value of goods and services purchased by immigrants in your local community?*

*How many jobs have been created by immigrant-owned businesses in your community?*

*How do immigrant employees contribute to businesses in your community?*

In order to answer these questions, you could partner with a local university or Chamber of Commerce; local government may be able to provide some data, as well. Compiling comprehensive data about the economic impact of immigrants in your community is probably beyond the scope of your initiative, but that doesn't mean you can't find some answers that help tell your story.

And once you've found numbers—through your local government, the Chamber, or at local businesses—remember that your work isn't done. Telling the story of a local immigrant entrepreneur, or a US-born business owner who relies on immigrant employees or customers is a great way of helping your audience understand that real people live behind the numbers you're sharing—and that the economic benefits of welcoming immigrants to a community extend to the whole community.

## PITFALLS TO AVOID

As in medicine, the first rule of messaging is "Do no harm." While that's sometimes easier said than done, it's always a good idea to think about how the messages you develop might inadvertently reinforce negative stereotypes or lead you into unproductive conversations. Here are a few pitfalls to avoid as you begin a conversation with new audiences.

**USING DIVIDING LANGUAGE.** Ensuring that the messages you create are inclusive rather than divisive is the most important step you can take in crafting messages that do no harm. That means focusing on the benefits to the entire community of becoming more welcoming, rather than the benefits for any one part of the community, including immigrants. You should also try to avoid drawing distinctions between immigrants—high skilled and low skilled, for example. This plays into negative stereotypes of "good immigrants" and "bad immigrants," and takes away from your central message of communities becoming stronger when everyone feels included and can contribute to their culture and economy.

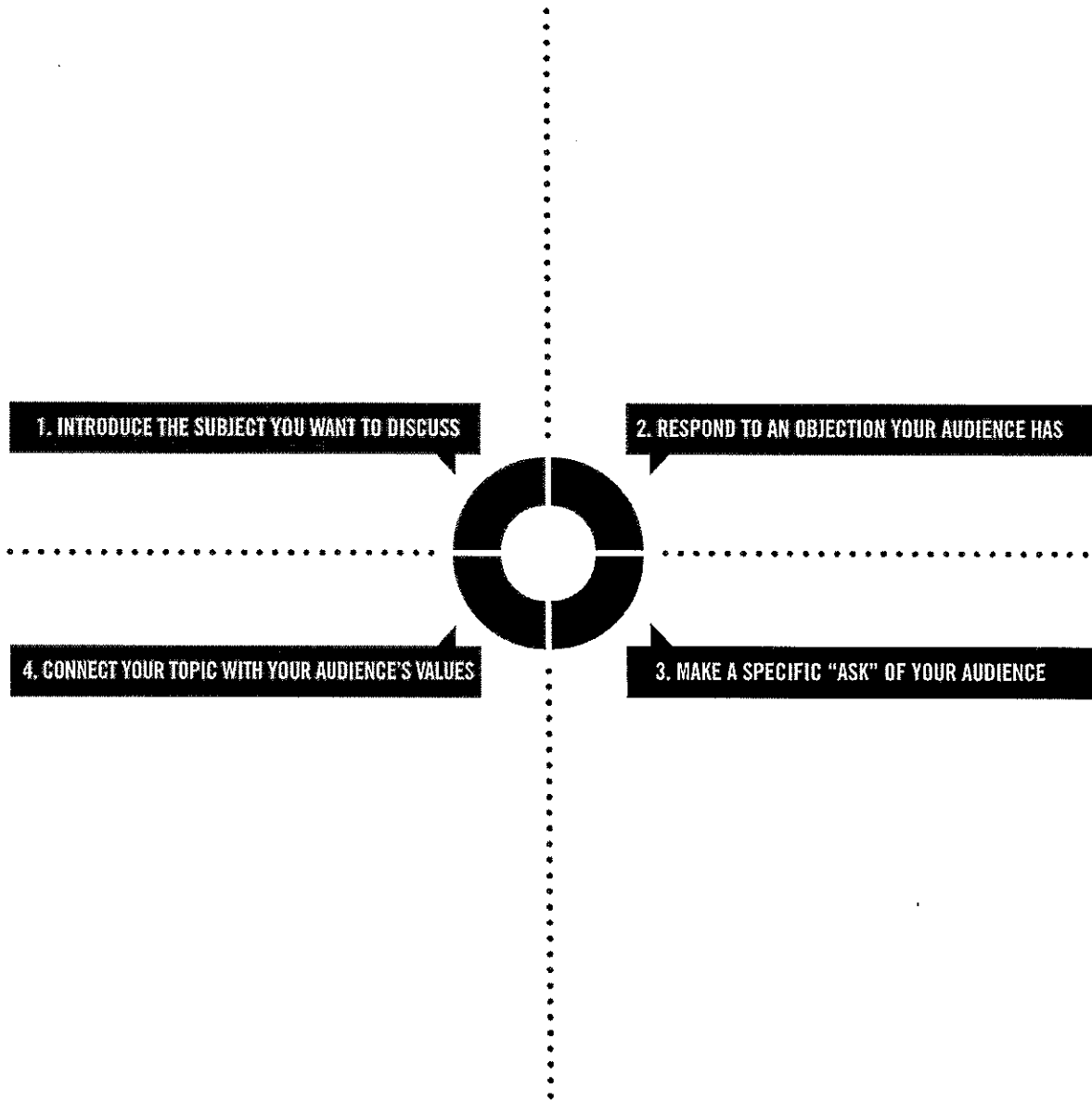
**IGNORING ECONOMIC INSECURITY.** As our economy continues to recover from the financial crisis of 2008, economic insecurity is still a huge issue and fears of immigrants "stealing jobs" are very real for many Americans, and particularly those communities hit hardest by the recession, including African Americans. As you develop your messages, make sure you always combine the idea of immigrants as workers with immigrants as consumers and the contribution they make to a growing economy that benefits an entire community.

**FORGETTING IMMIGRANTS ARE PEOPLE.** One of the easiest traps to fall into in creating this kind of messaging is using language that places a solely monetary value on immigrants, which is dehumanizing and counterproductive. Always try to frame messages about the economic impact of immigrant integration in terms of shared prosperity that benefits an entire community, and remember to broaden the frame to include the cultural contributions that immigrants make to a vibrant, diverse and welcoming community.

**FORGETTING TO START WHERE YOUR AUDIENCE IS.** Rather than try to convince people of the truth of your viewpoint, it's far more productive to begin a conversation that may feel more intuitively "correct" to your audience. A great example of this is taxes. Public opinion polls have consistently shown that most Americans don't believe immigrants pay them. Instead of trying to convince your audience that immigrants do, in fact, pay taxes, you might make a broader point about the contributions immigrants make to culture and economic growth, for example, or the values of hard work, family, entrepreneurship and innovation that immigrants share with US-born residents of your community.

## YOUR TURN

The message wheel is a tool to plan initiative messaging based on a conversation you might have with a member of your key audience. It has four parts that:



Ideally, each message wheel you develop will create a four-part message that utilizes a single theme from those outlined above in order to ensure the clarity of your message. Remember, the message wheel is a circle so you can start writing (and start the conversation with your audience) wherever you want—it's often easiest to start writing with the ask, because it's so specific and simple.

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## EXAMPLE

**AUDIENCE:** Elected Officials

**THEME:** 21st Century Economy

### 1 INTRODUCE

Competing in a twenty-first century economy will require taking full advantage of our most important resource—our people. And that means welcoming everyone who wants to contribute to our success—including the new Americans who are starting businesses, committing to our community, and helping build a stronger local economy.

### 2 RESPOND

(to the idea of dividing high-skilled and low-skilled immigrants)

A twenty-first century economy needs engineers and artists, people to cook our food and to care for our elders. Creating a city that's welcoming to new Americans means creating a community where all kinds of people feel welcome.

### 4 CONNECT

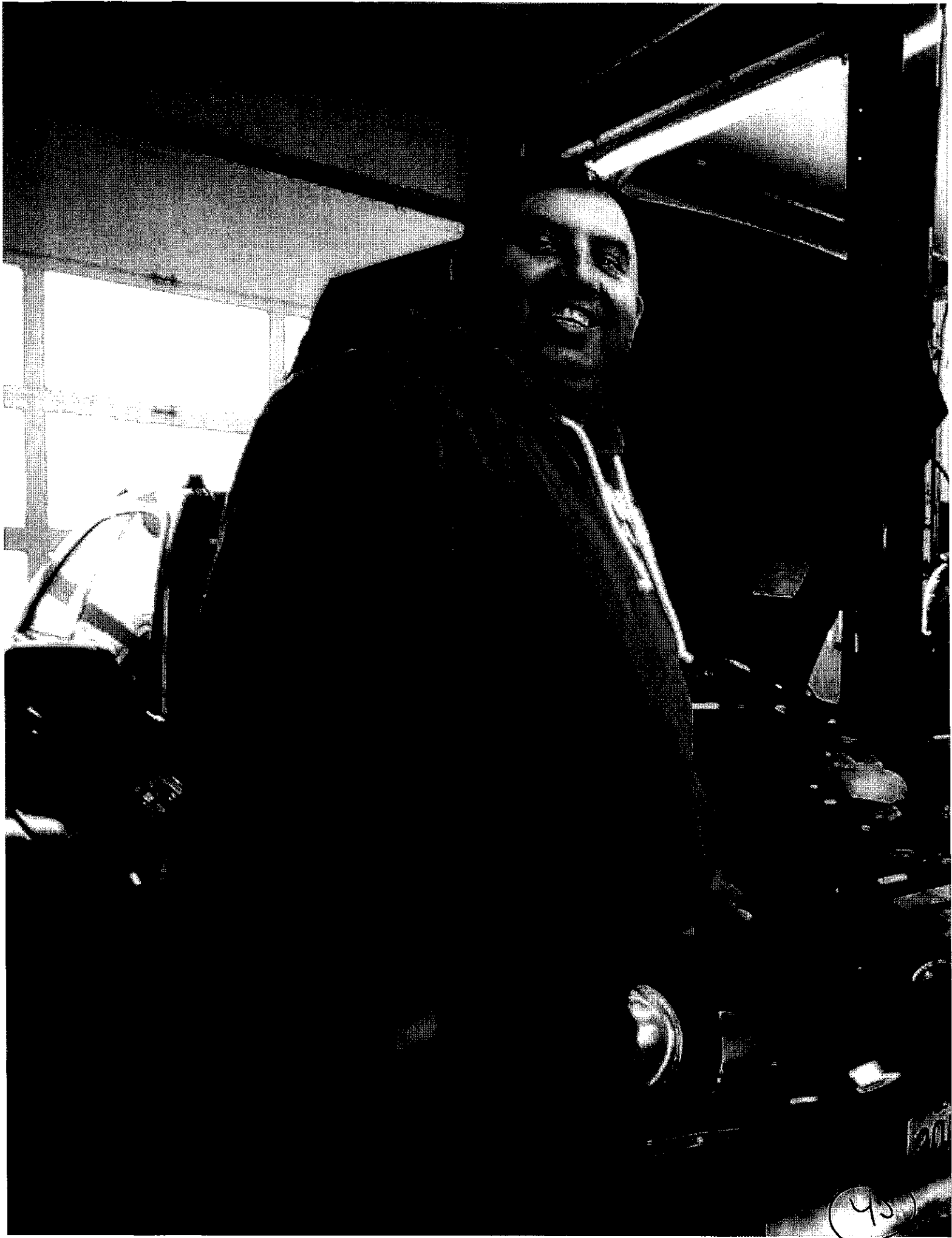
When we find ways to be more welcoming of new Americans, our city becomes a beacon of opportunity and a community that can compete for the best and the brightest.

### 3 ASK

Support our Welcoming City resolution to ensure our city can compete in a global economy.

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# WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

who have come to this country  
to enrich their lives, and in turn,  
enrich our country.

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**ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA**, Mayor of Los Angeles

Building the base of support for creating a welcoming communities means explaining how the whole community benefits when everyone feels included. The message themes contained in this toolkit, while pragmatic and focused on economic growth, are rooted in shared values—of cooperation, connection, cultural vibrancy and broadly shared prosperity.

We hope that you will use this toolkit as a starting point for reaching new partners in your own community, building on its recommendations to create messages that resonate with your particular audiences and that reflect the local context you know best.

If you're interested in learning more about Welcoming America or how we can support you in making your community a more welcoming one, please contact us at [info@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:info@welcomingamerica.org).

And please let us know if you've used this toolkit and the messages in it in your community. We would love to hear from you!

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**City of Kent  
Income Tax Division**

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**September 30, 2016  
Income Tax Receipts Comparison - ( Excluding 0.25% Police Facility Receipts )**

**Monthly Receipts**

Total receipts for the month of September, 2016	\$1,109,848
Total receipts for the month of September, 2015	\$934,913
Total receipts for the month of September, 2014	\$983,247

**Year-to-date Receipts and Percent of Total Annual Receipts Collected**

	<u>Year-to-date Actual</u>	<u>Percent of Annual</u>
Total receipts January 1 through September 30, 2016	\$10,716,920	75.83%
Total receipts January 1 through September 30, 2015	\$10,950,874	75.04%
Total receipts January 1 through September 30, 2014	\$9,603,707	73.31%

**Year-to-date Receipts Through September 30, 2016 - Budget vs. Actual**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Revised Budgeted Receipts</u>	<u>Year-to-date Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Percent Collected</u>	<u>Percent Remaining</u>
2016	\$ 14,133,510	\$ 14,133,510	\$10,716,920	75.83%	24.17%

**Comparisons of Total Annual Receipts for Previous Eight Years**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Percent Change From Prior Year</u>
2008	\$ 10,712,803	1.63%
2009	\$ 10,482,215	-2.15%
2010	\$ 10,453,032	-0.28%
2011	\$ 10,711,766	2.48%
2012	\$ 12,063,299	12.62%
2013	\$ 12,397,812	2.77%
2014	\$ 13,099,836	5.66%
2015	\$ 14,592,491	11.39%

Submitted by David A. Coffey, Director of Budget and Finance

**2016 CITY OF KENT, OHIO**  
**Comparison of Income Tax Receipts**  
**(Excluding 0.25% Police Facility Receipts)**  
**as of Month Ended September 30, 2016**

<b>Monthly Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 935,222	\$ 1,133,206	\$ 1,154,690	\$ 21,484	1.90%
February	992,427	1,025,924	1,099,532	73,608	7.17%
March	1,027,737	1,092,324	1,182,357	90,032	8.24%
April	1,393,884	1,432,498	1,413,680	(18,818)	-1.31%
May	1,029,906	1,188,681	1,226,790	38,109	3.21%
June	1,170,257	1,172,480	1,239,820	67,340	5.74%
July	1,073,397	1,844,744	1,070,843	(773,901)	-41.95%
August	997,630	1,126,103	1,219,361	93,258	8.28%
September	983,247	934,913	1,109,848	174,934	18.71%
October	1,138,675	1,148,218			
November	1,152,778	1,262,728			
December	1,204,676	1,230,671			
Totals	\$ 13,099,836	\$ 14,592,491	\$ 10,716,920		

<b>Year-to-Date Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 935,222	\$ 1,133,206	\$ 1,154,690	\$ 21,484	1.90%
February	1,927,649	2,159,130	2,254,221	95,091	4.40%
March	2,955,386	3,251,454	3,436,578	185,124	5.69%
April	4,349,270	4,683,953	4,850,258	166,305	3.55%
May	5,379,176	5,872,634	6,077,048	204,414	3.48%
June	6,549,433	7,045,114	7,316,868	271,754	3.86%
July	7,622,830	8,889,858	8,387,712	(502,147)	-5.65%
August	8,620,460	10,015,961	9,607,073	(408,888)	-4.08%
September	9,603,707	10,950,874	10,716,920	(233,954)	-2.14%
October	10,742,382	12,099,092			
November	11,895,160	13,361,820			
December	13,099,836	14,592,491			
Totals	\$ 13,099,836	\$ 14,592,491			

**2016 CITY OF KENT, OHIO**  
**Comparison of Income Tax Receipts from Kent State University**  
**(Excluding 0.25% Police Facility Receipts)**  
**as of Month Ended September 30, 2016**

<b>Monthly Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 397,519	\$ 414,915	\$ 421,390	\$ 6,475	1.56%
February	361,700	380,146	385,108	4,962	1.31%
March	404,469	419,335	442,123	22,788	5.43%
April	412,661	421,050	422,702	1,652	0.39%
May	396,992	410,426	459,795	49,369	12.03%
June	425,614	445,804	410,589	(35,214)	-7.90%
July	374,686	389,954	0	(389,954)	-100.00%
August	389,902	400,211	808,425	408,214	102.00%
September	332,001	336,026	350,859	14,833	4.41%
October	407,748	407,766			
November	456,507	466,654			
December	418,293	424,587			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,778,094</b>	<b>\$ 4,916,874</b>	<b>\$ 3,700,992</b>		

<b>Year-to-Date Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 397,519	\$ 414,915	\$ 421,390	\$ 6,475	1.56%
February	759,219	795,061	806,499	11,437	1.44%
March	1,163,689	1,214,397	1,248,622	34,225	2.82%
April	1,576,350	1,635,447	1,671,324	35,877	2.19%
May	1,973,342	2,045,873	2,131,119	85,246	4.17%
June	2,398,956	2,491,676	2,541,708	50,032	2.01%
July	2,773,643	2,881,630	2,541,708	(339,922)	-11.80%
August	3,163,545	3,281,842	3,350,133	68,292	2.08%
September	3,495,546	3,617,868	3,700,992	83,124	2.30%
October	3,903,294	4,025,633			
November	4,359,801	4,492,287			
December	4,778,094	4,916,874			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,778,094</b>	<b>\$ 4,916,874</b>			

**2016 CITY OF KENT, OHIO**  
**Comparison of Income Tax Receipts from Kent State University**  
**(Excluding 0.25% Police Facility Receipts)**

**Comparisons of Total Annual Receipts for Previous Eight Years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
2008	\$ 3,919,539	5.71%
2009	\$ 4,090,788	4.37%
2010	\$ 4,267,465	4.32%
2011	\$ 4,246,372	-0.49%
2012	\$ 4,436,666	4.48%
2013	\$ 4,603,095	3.75%
2014	\$ 4,778,094	3.80%
2015	\$ 4,916,874	2.90%

**2016 CITY OF KENT, OHIO**  
**Comparison of Income Tax Receipts**  
**Police Facility Dedicated Income Tax Receipts - 1/9 of Total ( 0.25% )**  
**as of Month Ended September 30, 2016**

<b>Monthly Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 116,890	\$ 141,635	\$ 144,319	\$ 2,684	1.90%
February	124,039	128,226	137,426	9,200	7.17%
March	128,453	136,525	147,779	11,254	8.24%
April	174,216	179,042	176,690	(2,352)	-1.31%
May	128,723	148,568	153,332	4,763	3.21%
June	146,266	146,544	154,960	8,417	5.74%
July	134,159	230,567	133,840	(96,727)	-41.95%
August	124,690	140,747	152,403	11,656	8.28%
September	122,892	116,851	138,715	21,864	18.71%
October	142,318	143,511			
November	144,081	157,823			
December	150,569	153,817			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,637,295</b>	<b>\$ 1,823,856</b>	<b>\$ 1,339,464</b>		

<b>Year-to-Date Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 116,890	\$ 141,635	\$ 144,319	\$ 2,684	1.90%
February	\$ 240,929	\$ 269,861	281,745	11,884	4.40%
March	\$ 369,382	\$ 406,386	429,524	23,138	5.69%
April	\$ 543,598	\$ 585,428	606,214	20,786	3.55%
May	\$ 672,321	\$ 733,997	759,546	25,549	3.48%
June	\$ 818,586	\$ 880,540	914,506	33,965	3.86%
July	\$ 952,745	\$ 1,111,107	1,048,346	(62,761)	-5.65%
August	\$ 1,077,435	\$ 1,251,854	1,200,749	(51,105)	-4.08%
September	\$ 1,200,327	\$ 1,368,705	1,339,464	(29,241)	-2.14%
October	\$ 1,342,645	\$ 1,512,216			
November	\$ 1,486,726	\$ 1,670,040			
December	\$ 1,637,295	\$ 1,823,856			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,637,295</b>	<b>\$ 1,823,856</b>			



**2016 CITY OF KENT, OHIO**  
**Comparison of Total Income Tax Receipts - Including Police Facility Receipts**  
**as of Month Ended September 30, 2016**

<b>Monthly Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 1,052,112	\$ 1,274,841	\$ 1,299,009	\$ 24,168	1.90%
February	1,116,466	1,154,150	1,236,958	82,807	7.17%
March	1,156,190	1,228,849	1,330,135	101,285	8.24%
April	1,568,100	1,611,541	1,590,370	(21,170)	-1.31%
May	1,158,629	1,337,250	1,380,122	42,872	3.21%
June	1,316,523	1,319,024	1,394,780	75,756	5.74%
July	1,207,556	2,075,311	1,204,684	(870,627)	-41.95%
August	1,122,320	1,266,850	1,371,764	104,914	8.28%
September	1,106,139	1,051,764	1,248,563	196,799	18.71%
October	1,280,993	1,291,729			
November	1,296,859	1,420,551			
December	1,355,243	1,384,487			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 14,737,131</b>	<b>\$ 16,416,347</b>	<b>\$ 10,807,822</b>		

<b>Year-to-Date Receipts</b>				<b>Comparisons</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
January	\$ 1,052,112	\$ 1,274,841	\$ 1,299,009	\$ 24,168	1.90%
February	2,168,578	2,428,991	2,535,967	106,976	4.40%
March	3,324,768	3,657,840	3,866,102	208,261	5.69%
April	4,892,868	5,269,381	5,456,472	187,091	3.55%
May	6,051,497	6,606,631	6,836,594	229,963	3.48%
June	7,368,020	7,925,654	8,231,374	305,719	3.86%
July	8,575,576	10,000,966	9,436,058	(564,908)	-5.65%
August	9,697,896	11,267,815	10,807,822	(459,994)	-4.08%
September	10,804,035	12,319,580	12,056,384	(263,195)	-2.14%
October	12,085,028	13,611,309			
November	13,381,888	15,031,860			
December	14,737,131	16,416,347			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 14,737,131</b>	<b>\$ 16,416,347</b>			

\$ 457,000.00  
3.710%

**KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SEPTEMBER 2016**

	SEPTEMBER 2015	SEPTEMBER 2016	TOTAL 2015	TOTAL 2016
CALLS FOR SERVICE	2022	2516	17477	22018
FIRE CALLS	387	442	2985	3083
ARRESTS, TOTAL	186	207	1665	1675
JUVENILE ARRESTS	12	12	107	72
O.V.I. ARRESTS	15	17	138	146
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	316	267	2642	2805
PARKING TICKETS	1083	783	5633	6226
<b>ACCIDENT REPORTS</b>				
ACCIDENT REPORTS	88	78	711	760
Property Damage	61	44	472	520
Injury	15	11	70	86
Private Property	11	18	130	119
Hit-Skip	0	3	36	23
OVI Related	0	2	8	11
Pedestrians	1	0	9	5
Fatals	0	0	0	0
<b>U.C.R. STATISTICS</b>				
Homicide	0	0	1	1
Rape	0	0	1	0
Robbery	0	1	8	8
Assault Total	28	36	211	176
Serious		14	6	42
Simple		14	30	169
Burglary	6	10	92	74
Larceny	29	51	246	268
Auto Theft	1	1	6	13
Arson	1	1	3	2
Human Trafficking:Servitude	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>CRIME CLEARANCES</b>				
Homicide	0	0	0	2
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	4	3
Assault Total	22	33	178	153
Serious		10	6	34
Simple		12	27	144
Burglary	2	4	20	18
Larceny	3	5	33	49
Auto Theft	0	0	3	3
Arson	0	1	1	2
Human Trafficking:Servitude	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking:Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>230</b>