Welcome Dayton Plan
Why create an immigrant friendly plan?

• Help immigrants get settled and increase civic engagement
• Increase immigrant business development
• Ease access to social services
• Nurture mutual trust, respect, and a welcoming environment
• Compete in global economy by attracting immigrants & talent to our workforce
Overview

Planning process:

• Dialogue with city leaders and Human Relations Council lead to civic engagement process
• Implemented community conversations over a 6-month period - envisioned possibilities, gained commitment and composed Plan
• City Commission approved a Resolution to accept the Plan
Overview

The Plan

Residents self-selected into the following four content areas:

- Business and Economic Development
- Local Government and Justice System
- Social and Health Services
- Community, Culture, Arts and Education
The Plan (continued):

• The four planning groups designed their own process but all groups met together 3 times over the 90-day planning period
• A fifth group of city staff and community members consensed on the Plan’s name and logo design
• Plan reflects a personal story for many Daytonians and is viewed as a living document
Goals

Business & Economic Development Goals:

• Identify a strategic neighborhood business district as a center for immigrant businesses

• Reduce the barriers for immigrant entrepreneurs to open new businesses anywhere in the city
Goals

Local Government and Justice System Goals:

- Increase immigrant participation in government and community organizations and activities
- Increase trust and communication between immigrant communities and law enforcement
- Overcome language barriers in courts and prosecutors’ offices
- Promote increased access to government services by having language services available
Goals

Social and Health Services Goals:

• Eliminate barriers to services caused by lack of interpreters and limited understanding of cultural and access issues

• Systematically review all local laws and practices that create artificial and unnecessary barriers to immigrants and refugees
Goals

Community, Culture, Arts and Education Goals:

• Increase the availability of ESL and literacy courses for adults

• Actively involve all community youth in international connections and community building

• Encourage cross-cultural programming among community’s cultural and arts organizations
City Government Goals:

- Adopt the Welcome Dayton Plan as framework
- Establish a Welcome Dayton committee to coordinate and implement the Plan
- Identify lead person in CMO to coordinate city efforts
- Seek financial partners to fund facilitation efforts for 3 years
Implementation

• Identify city and community resources to staff the Welcome Dayton Committee to facilitate/coordinate efforts
• Formation of Task Force groups within Plan’s areas of focus
• Encourage immigrant groups, other government agencies, community institutions, and business leaders to undertake their own welcoming initiatives
• Create website that connects and supports Welcome Dayton
• Maintain grassroots structure and civic engagement practice upon which the Plan was formed
Economic Development Benefits

• Enhance Dayton’s competitiveness in the global economy

• Strengthen ability to recruit talented individuals from around the world

• Focus on Dayton’s resources, welcoming climate, and diverse population base

• Support growth from within through immigrant entrepreneurs
2011
February - April: Community conversations
April - June: Community composed the Plan
July - August: Logo designed, Resolution organized
Sept – Oct: Commission Work Session/Resolution approved
November – December: Designed and populated web site

2012
January – March: launched web site; City Manager’s task force
April: Commission selection of Welcome Dayton committee
The Welcome Dayton process clearly revealed ongoing local initiatives by small and often cooperating groups of people to develop a welcoming community.

Welcome Dayton, to succeed, must link with and be supportive of and collaborative with local non-governmental and non-corporate organizations.
Questions?

Questions or Comments?

For more information, please visit: www.welcomedayton.org

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Welcome Dayton Plan

Thank you!