



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Imran Malik, Chair, called the Tuesday, April 29, 2025 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC) meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Imran Malik, Peggy Kilty, Niki Lombardo, Crystal Maiuri, Ingrid Fields, Isao Shoji, Kristine Aldemir

Members Absent: Katawi Cato, Ming Yu, Max Xu

Staff Present: Christine Nardecchia, Megan O'Callaghan, Chief Justin Paez, Jennifer Delgado

Guests Present: Shannon Black-Dotson, LPC, Syntero, Public Safety Services Liaison, Dublin Police Department/Washington Township Fire Department

Approval of Minutes

Chair Malik inquired if there were any corrections to the February 25, 2025 CIAC minutes. [No corrections were requested.]

Mr. Shoji moved, Ms. Maiuri seconded approval of the meeting minutes.

Vote: Ms. Kilty, yes; Mr. Malik, yes; Mr. Shoji, yes; Vice Chair Lombardo, yes; Ms. Fields, yes; Ms. Maiuri, yes; Ms. Aldemir, yes.

[Motion approved 7-0]

Chair Malik welcomed City Manager Ms. O'Callaghan and Police Chief Paez to the meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Accepting Cultural Gifts: General Practice**

Chair Malik welcomed Jennifer Delgado, Clerk of Council to the meeting, who will be presenting the topic of general practices for acceptance of cultural gifts.

Ms. Delgado stated that she requested the opportunity to speak to this committee regarding the City's acceptance of cultural gifts to gain their input. The reason to receive gifts can be varied. She pointed out some examples of gifts received by City Council for different reasons; for example, one gift was received in appreciation for the City lighting the bridge in recognition of a cultural holiday. While the gifts are very nice, there are few parameters guiding acceptance of the gifts. The Ohio Ethics Commission provides some value parameters on what gifts the City can receive, but there are no parameters regarding acceptance of gifts from cultural groups. She would like the committee to consider this question and provide their opinions as to appropriate parameters for guiding acceptance of such gifts.

Ms. Aldemir stated that many cultural groups present gifts as a sign of friendship and their desire for future cooperation. She believes the gifts should be displayed where the residents of Dublin can see them. Gifts presented in this manner are not intended to belong to any City employee or City Council but to the City of Dublin.

Ms. Delgado stated that if the expectation is that the gifts be displayed, there is the question of how to do that. Over the years, City Council has received many gifts. Currently, the gifts are on display in City Council's office, but not on display specifically for the public's view. She is unsure if that is an expectation.

Vice Chair Lombardo stated that she believes that any gifts City Council accepts probably should be displayed. The gifts are presented to the City, not to specific individuals. It is important that whatever gift the City accepts does not raise expectations that the City will do something in exchange.

Ms. Maiuri stated that the City should have a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the receipt of cultural gifts. It should establish that the City will accept gifts of less than a certain monetary value and also establish how long the City will keep and store the item. Perhaps after a certain length of time, the items could be auctioned and the funds used to benefit the City in some way.

Ms. Fields stated that she is accustomed to organizations that understand that not all entities accept gifts, and that also recognize gifts of excessive value are not appropriate. There is a process to decline such gifts to avoid ethics conflicts. If the City does not have a written SOP, creating one would be a good start.

Ms. Delgado expressed agreement. The question is how to determine the retention parameters. Different people place different value on items, and there is the risk of offending a culture if their gift is not retained a sufficient length of time.

Ms. Kilty stated that since the City of Dublin does not have an SOP, does the State, Federal Government or other municipalities have this type of guidance in place?

Ms. Delgado stated that she will be reaching out to the state municipal clerk network and inquiring if any of their municipalities have a gift policy.

Ms. Fields stated that she believes there are guidelines in place for vendors concerning the giving of gifts.

Ms. Maiuri stated that she believes the Federal Government has stringent rules in place governing acceptance of gifts.

Ms. Aldemir stated that gifts received in gratitude for the City's acknowledgement of cultural events should be labeled and publicly displayed, acknowledging the giver and the cultural event. There should be full disclosure.

Ms. Maiuri stated that it might be beneficial to have a standard form that is used with acceptance/rejection of the gift that clarifies the gift receipt parameters and requires the giver's signature acknowledging the parameters.

Mr. Shoji stated that along with the form, the City should make the City's policies clear to the gift giver in a polite, respectful manner. There should be no misunderstanding about what will happen to those gifts at some point in the future. What that timeframe is may be up to debate. His personal view is that the gift should be on display by the recipient for a length of time; a year seems too short to him. Although there already are gift standards in place for vendors, there needs to be a completely different gift policy for cultural gifts. He does not believe culture-related gifts are given with the intent for a quid pro quo. If the City does not treat receipt of gifts respectfully, there is a significant risk of offending different cultures in a way that the City might not have contemplated. He would recommend the City retain the gift for a period of time and that the City attempt to receive, not reject, and to communicate clearly.

Vice Chair Lombardo agreed. The City should let people know that there is a policy and guidelines in place; the communication of that is important. The expectation on giving a gift is that it is kept. She would be more supportive of 10 years than one year. The timeframe can always be amended later if it does not seem appropriate. The City already has guidelines for the vendors and businesses with whom it conducts business, and even though the focus of this discussion is cultural gifts, we want to ensure that ethical boundaries are maintained. She agrees with Mr. Shoji – the City should be more inclined to accept a cultural gift than to reject it.

Chair Malik stated that we all come from different cultures and recognize that gifts are an expression of respect to dignify an occasion. For those occasions, people often provide a gift to honor a City official. He agrees that the City should not reject the cultural practice; rather it should promote it as an outreach method, building conduits within the community. He agrees a SOP should be adopted that provides clarification of the City's policy, including a monetary gift value limit. In many other communities, the employees who are the recipients of a gift at a specific occasion are given the opportunity later to buy the gift in a City auction. The intent is that the goodwill goes back to a charity or non-profit organization. Although a SOP may not exist at a local government level, we are reaching the point where our social fabric is changing so rapidly that if we are not thoughtfully inclusive, it may not be perceived positively by other cultures.

Mr. Shoji stated that he believes the giver of a gift would really appreciate that the gift is displayed where the public can see it, especially in a City setting, such as this. Therefore, he would be supportive of moving the gifts from Council's office to someplace more public. For the record, he would like to say that when the members of that particular culture then see that gift being displayed by the City in a public setting, it tells that person that they or their community are a part of the fabric of Dublin. It is an invaluable opportunity for the City to make a statement that they are part of the City. He recognizes that all gifts cannot be displayed indefinitely, but he is hopeful the decision makers consider that perspective.

Vice Chair Lombardo stated that she definitely agrees that the gifts should not be on display to just Council members but to the public. She agrees that there is value to the giver seeing their gift on display. The interpretation is that if the City values their gift, they value them and their community. Perhaps all of the City buildings could be used as display cases. If it is determined that gifts need to be removed, returned, auctioned or destroyed, that adds complexity to the disposition process. It becomes someone's job to track the gifts and handle that process. If the gift is associated with an event that City Events staff assisted with, perhaps the Service Center is the appropriate place to display the gift. This gift process would add to staff's workload, but it also communicates a message of belonging to members of our community.

Chair Malik stated that one aspect to consider is that it could foster a competitive attitude within the diverse community. Communities should not feel obliged to gift something. Additionally, if there are 20 different ethnic groups in Dublin, and every year, there are 20 different events and 20 different gifts, the City will run out of display space. Due to the popularity of social media, perhaps the City could display the gifts in an online space. They could be located in a storage space. Occasionally, vandalism of items on display can occur.

Ms. Maiuri expressed support of an online posting display. The City still would be showing public display and appreciation.

Ms. Aldemir stated that even if there are 20 different cultures within the community, not all 20 have events and provide gifts associated with the event. Perhaps the event-related gifts could be displayed for a limited period of time near the occurrence of the event.

Ms. Kilty inquired if, when gifts were present in the past, any expectations were expressed along with the gift giving.

Ms. Delgado responded that gifts often have been received unexpectedly. Members of the community arrive at City Hall for the purpose of presenting a gift to the City. Some gifts also have been given to Council members when they attend events. City Council does not typically know ahead of time that a gift will be given.

Ms. Callaghan stated that speaking from her experience, she is often presented with gifts at meetings to accept on behalf of the City. A meeting might be scheduled with the City Manager's office, the meeting then would occur in the City Manager's conference room, and the individual often will bring a gift to present to the City. She accepts the gift, which might be anything from a book, plaque or souvenir of the organization. Honorary counsel general visits typically involve a gift. In regard to the comment about the use of various City buildings, the City space that receives the most foot traffic is the Recreation Center. Many events are held in the Tallas. Currently, the City is working on a refresh of the Recreation Center, so there might be the opportunity to include a rotating display case within that building. The case could display cultural gifts labeled with the purpose for which the gift was presented.

Ms. Nardecchia summarized that the Committee's input is that the City should conduct benchmarking of best practices and develop a SOP that involves an intake process including a form and collect information from the gift-giver on the meaning of the gift for the purpose of public display. The Committee believes the cultural gift process creates a sense of belonging which the City needs to encourage. We do not want to exclude anyone in the community for the sake of not offending some.

Chair Malik stated that we need to promote the culture of accepting gifts from our constituents. We also should be mindful that some gifts from one community can be controversial to another community. Displaying those gifts could involve a risk of offense, so the process must include due diligence.

Ms. Delgado stated that as a next step, she would conduct some benchmarking of other communities and state and federal practices. She would compile the information and provide it to the committee for their response at a future meeting.

- **Public Safety Services Liaison Position Overview**

Shannon Black-Dotson stated that she serves as the Public Safety Services Liaison for the Dublin Police Department (PD) and now Washington Township Fire Department, as well. She was hired in October 2023 by Syntero for the purposes of being contracted to the City for this position. The program went live in December 2023. Her primary role is to be a gap filler for first responders and the community members with whom they come in contact. She usually provides a resource need. She helps first responders be aware of the community resources that are available for these individuals. One of her other roles is networking with peers in other communities that do similar work. That has been very helpful in providing a better understanding and a database of available resources for community members but also individuals traveling through the Dublin area and find themselves in a crisis. It has been helpful to have a contact person in the community of which they are a part. Another aspect of her role is to remain informed of current developments and procedures pertinent to the community needs, such as substance abuse, mental health, housing, food insecurities, family and older adult needs. The purpose of the role is to fill the gap between first responders and longer-term services for individuals experiencing a situation due to lack of resources. Since the program started in December 2023, we have provided approximately 200 referrals. There were 113 activity events in the first quarter of 2025 and 66.75 hours spent working with the individuals. The majority of those events were with the Dublin PD. We are still working on a referral process for Washington Township. They have been able to successfully link community members with resources. One example was a family in need of family resources. We were able to get those family members appropriately linked with agencies that worked with the entire family. [She provided other examples.] Community partnerships are helpful for building the database, and tearing down some of the silo systems. There is much duplicity of resources. The Franklin County community as a whole is working to build a better network so they can provide better continuity of care. She has been working on building partnerships with local non-profit organizations. She has made 200 referrals since the start of the program; 71% of those are crisis mental health services. The next highest referral need (26%) is housing insecurity. Housing is an issue due to the increasing cost of housing. Many are unable to maintain stable housing because of the increasing costs of the housing. There are many transient individuals in our community, i.e. living in extended stay facilities. Even the homeless population comes here because they feel safer in this community. There are some people who fall in the homeless gap who are working but don't make enough money to afford stable housing; yet they make too much money to qualify for assistance. A third gap is with the older adult population. They do not want to stay at the shelters, because they are a vulnerable population with a higher risk of being a victim in the shelters. They choose to stay in a car or in an extended stay as long as they can afford, or even on the street. They feel safer in those environments than in some

of the shelters due to the age group. It would be very beneficial if the Franklin County community could provide a facility that was specifically designated for our more vulnerable populations.

Ms. Nardecchia requested that Ms. Black-Dotson describe a typical example of how she might enter a case.

Ms. Black-Dotson stated that when she arrives at the beginning of the day, she pulls up email to check for requests for referrals. Sometimes a referral will be left on her desk. Dublin Police Department (PD) has an online form into which officers can enter information regarding an individual that she would need to contact about available resources. Most of the officers carry her business cards with them. When they come into contact with individuals in need, they tell them about the referral service and offer them her business card. Either the individual can contact her or she can reach out to them.

Ms. Fields inquired if there are any other significant trends she has observed within our community. Ms. Black-Dotson responded that mental health crises are the bulk of her referrals. The next highest need is housing. They see some substance use. Many times those individuals indicate in a crisis that they are interested in services, but when she reaches out to them, they are no longer interested. The need for financial assistance is small unless it is incorporated with the housing insecurity. There is not a lot of food insecurity. Franklin County as a whole is very rich in food resources. It is a significant need for many individuals, but there are many available resources.

Ms. Lombardo inquired if she is seeing more family housing needs. In regard to shelters -- there are a few male or women shelters, but there aren't many family shelters within Franklin County. With the increase in housing prices and the decrease in affordable housing availability, she would imagine there is an increased need for family shelters.

Ms. Black-Dotson stated that she has encountered that need a few times, but it is not the majority of the housing insecurity situations. The primary housing insecurity is for individuals age 50 and over. The next highest would be young adults. Social security benefits do not increase sufficiently to cover the increased cost of living.

Ms. Lombardo stated that it says something about Dublin that people feel safe in this community and trust they will get the services they need.

Ms. Nardecchia reminded the committee that this discussion is referenced to the original Strategic Framework of CIAC addressing the promotion of public safety and sense of security. The original plan called for "Dublin Police to employ procedural justice in policy and interactions with the public with a focus on young and vulnerable communities." They continue to work on addressing those issues.

Ms. Lombardo asked Ms. Black-Dotson if an individual is not in a crisis situation where they are out of housing but are aware that the housing issue is becoming problematic for them, are there services available to them that they could access before a crisis occurs.

Ms. Black-Dotson responded that Dublin is in a unique situation, as it now sits within four different counties. The Central Ohio Office on Aging in Franklin County offers a senior options program. There are some assistance programs, but they provide only temporary not long-term assistance.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that the older adult housing issue is not an issue unique to Dublin. It is a region-wide and nation-wide issue. The issue occurs when incomes do not rise to meet the increasing housing costs. There are some creative housing strategies that the aging community is looking at,

such as house sharing. Although that idea is less popular in central Ohio than it is in different markets around the country, in other communities, a homeowner will rent out a fourth bedroom. There is a program called Nesterly that is used for that purpose. We do not have enough housing in central Ohio, which is part of the issue. Programs such as our public safety services liaison can connect with the four county agencies and Forever Dublin to encourage they look at creative solutions. Often, experiencing a housing issue can lead to a mental health issue.

Ms. Black-Dotson stated that regarding creative solutions, she just learned about one today that is called Vista Villages, a tiny homes community. They have completed their first phase of 41 tiny homes, and they are all booked. She is unsure when phase two is anticipated to be completed. Vista Village is a single-individual type of dwelling for individuals 18 and older; they are not for families. That is the only creative solution that she is aware of within this area; there is a broad partnership involved with that effort.

Ms. Kilty stated that she knows John and Joan Perez, the individuals who donated the land for this purpose and who worked with business partners to raise the money to construct them. She believes the houses are funded completely by donors. It is intended to be a hand up, not a handout. They are temporary housing solutions with social service support on site for the people living in those tiny homes.

Ms. Black-Dotson responded that she believes the intent is that they can live there for 18-24 months, and the individual must be committed to a treatment/recovery plan to become self sufficient.

Chair Malik stated that she mentioned that she had made 113 referrals in the first quarter 2025. Is there data that tracks how many of those were a result of initial crisis contact with a police officer compared to walk-ins to her office? He is curious about the breadth of the outreach.

Ms. Black-Dotson responded that the data is combined; it is not tracked separately. If an individual walks into the PD, she will meet with them, obtain the needed information and complete a referral form for them.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that Ms. Black-Dotson's service is connected specifically to police and fire calls. This is not a City office for social services delivery.

Chief Paez responded affirmatively; it is an important distinction to make. Our public safety services liaison facilitates connection to services; she does not provide services. The position exists to fill that referral gap for first responders who are responding to someone in crisis. After the officer triages the incident, they connect the individual with Ms. Black-Dotson, who in turn connects them with support networks. The development of this initiative was the result of City Council recognizing mental health being a critical consideration for the safety of our community and visitors to our community. They appreciate City Council and the City Manager for pointing them in the direction of this partnership with Syntero. Syntero is a wonderful partner. It takes a special person to be able to guide individuals and family members through the aftermath of crisis, and Ms. Black-Dotson's diligence and tireless efforts to identify and connect the individuals to resources has been invaluable. In the time she has been in this role, she has helped other central Ohio communities become aware of this model and how to navigate the resources, encouraging them to develop something similar in their communities.

Mr. Malik inquired how long we support or provide assistance to a person with a housing need. Are they typically able to remain in Dublin, or do they relocate elsewhere? Do we maintain any records on such situations?

Ms. Black-Dotson responded that it depends on their situation. If they are transient and we are able to link them with stable housing, they might not remain in the community. The older adult population may have the financial resources but no longer have the health and ability for upkeep of a home. They may need help with cleaning, access to food and transportation, and we have an abundance of resources for that. We are helping those individuals to be able to age in place and remain in Dublin, extending the time before they must go into a skilled living facility. Our intent is to do everything we can to help them remain in the community.

Ms. Kilty inquired if she is on site at the time of any of the calls, or if her services are all referral-based. She asks because she is aware that there has been an influx of social work or mental health professionals in police departments across the country. Was there ever any intent to provide her services side by side with the first responders on calls where a mental health crisis is occurring?

Chief Paez responded that it is not something that Dublin PD pursued. We took a look at the models of other public safety offices. For example, we took a look at the City of Delaware's model with police and fire. We then developed this partnership as a progression of the officers, paramedics and EMS responses, making that connection after an incident has occurred. We believe that to be the best fit for our community.

Ms. Aldemir inquired about recent situations with ICE detaining illegal immigrants -- what protections do we have in Dublin for these individuals that may be detained without legal due process.

Chief Paez responded that he is not aware of any incidents that have occurred in the City.

Ms. Aldemir stated that does not mean it cannot happen. What safeties are in place in the event it does?

Chie Paez responded that it does not fall within the purview of this program. Our officers might have some occasions where for law enforcement purposes, the situation would be facilitated at a different facility as their progression to a county jail. However, he is not aware of any incidents in Dublin that involved other than a normal police response.

Ms. Kilty inquired if PD would be required to respond to the current executive order from the Federal level regarding the militarization of local police departments.

Chie Paez responded that the term "militarization" is a placeholder word used for different perspectives in the past, but he is unfamiliar with what she is referring to.

Chair Malik thanked Ms. Black-Dotson for her work, and he thanked the Chief for providing the committee the opportunity to learn about this partnership.

STAFF COMMENTS

- **Board and Commission Reappointments**

Chair Malik stated that some board, commission and committee terms are due to expire soon, and Dublin City Council will be making new appointments/reappointments at an upcoming meeting. Therefore, the CIAC membership will reflect some changes at the committee's next meeting in June. He thanked those members whose terms are up or who are not seeking reappointments for allowing him to learn and be enriched through the time he has worked with them.

Vice Chair Lombardo stated that this is her last committee meeting. She has served the two terms permitted on the committee, and she is not eligible for reappointment. Some members she has served with from the beginning as we grew and learned what the committee's role is and how it can impact the City. She has been forever changed by the Committee's interactions. In the future, she may be attending the meeting and sitting in the audience, rather than sitting at the table as a committee member. She thanks the members for all the work they have done on behalf of the City; she anticipates that continuing.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that later this week, the City Council office will be sending out email invitations to a Board and Commission Recognition Reception, so members should watch their email.

Ms. Kilty stated that she was under the impression that she also was not permitted to seek another term; however, she was informed earlier this evening that her first term was a partial term, so she is eligible for reappointment. She will let City Council office know her decision tomorrow.

Mr. Shoji stated that this is his last meeting, as well. His involvement began in 2020 as a member of the Diversity Task Force that created the strategic framework from which the committee now works. He has had an opportunity to serve on both the task force, the Chief's Advisory Committee and CIAC. It has been an honor and a privilege. There is not a meeting that goes by where he is not impressed with the passion that members bring to the meeting for the cause and purpose of this committee. However, he believes his time is up, and someone with new perspectives would be helpful. He anticipates attending a future meeting as a member of the audience. He thanks members for the time serving together and looks forward to their continuing friendships.

Chair Malik stated that he has learned much from Isao, Niki and Peggy. Knowing their attitudes of giving to the community, he anticipates seeing them in other similar roles.

- **Inclusion Updates**

Ms. Nardecchia provided updates on the Volunteer Department's recent inclusion efforts.

- Safe Alliance of Interfaith Leaders (SAIL) – March 4. On March 4, 2025, the Safe Alliance of Interfaith Leaders (SAIL) of Columbus, Ohio hosted an annual Interfaith Iftar in Dublin, Ohio. The Iftar is a celebration that breaks the fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The 2025 theme was "Unity and Diversity." The meeting was joyful and well attended.
- Women in Construction Week. As part of March as Women's History Month, Women in Construction (WIC) Week 2025 took place from March 2–8, 2025. The week-long celebration recognized the contributions of women in the construction industry, and highlighted the growing role of women in the field. The 2025 theme was "Together We Rise," which celebrated the strength and knowledge of women and their role in shaping the future of construction. We lifted up the efforts of women-centric organizations within the City, such as the Dublin Women's Philanthropic Club. The Dublin Link Bridge was lit in commemoration.

- Kids in Dublin Service Program/Intergenerational Connectedness – A couple of weeks ago, our teenage volunteers planned and produced “senior” proms. The event included corsages and dancing and was well attended.
- Citizens University – April 1, kick-off day. The program is attended by a diverse group of residents in age, culture, profession, background and languages spoken. In each session, we are including a lot more about our work culture and our culture of belonging. We will be hosting this year’s graduation ceremony at the new Dublin History Museum.
- All Citizen U Grad Gatherings – we have had two to date this year. The first was with the Chief of Police; the second was with the new Washington Township Fire Chief. The attendees included graduates of Citizen U, the Citizen’s Police Academy, the Citizen’s Fire Academy and Citizen U Jumpstart (teen group). The next gathering will be in September and the final one in 2025 will be in December with Coffee with the City Manager.
- Cherry Blossom Luncheon, Friday, April 11, was hosted by Hidaka USA. It is the official start of spring in the City. City leadership and Dublin organizations are invited as an extension of appreciation and friendship.
- JASCO event, March 25, 2025. The event was hosted by JASCO to highlight the people and partnerships behind Japan’s 40 years of success at Honda.
- Internal DEI Committee, April 17, the internal DEI committee hosted a potluck dinner that was well attended by employees.
- Ohio University (OU) Dublin Speakers Series continued with its current focus on healthy aging. Our older adult population was very interested. We are working with OU on our fall session.
- Dublin Link Bridge – The City receives and accommodates many citizen requests that the bridge be lit in honor of various events. The bridge is used as a wonderful statement of support to the community.
- Citizen Naturalization Ceremony, Thursday, May 8, 1:00 pm, Abbey Theater, Dublin Recreation Center. The City will once again be hosting a naturalization ceremony. 100 petitioners will become American citizens. CIAC member, Isao Shoji, will be the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Committee members interested in attending and assisting should contact her.

- **Upcoming Events of Note**

Chair Malik reminded members of the following upcoming events.

- National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 4, 7:30 am, Linworth Baptist Church, Bethel Road – SAIL will host the event. RSVPS are needed. Mayor Amorose-Groomes will be speaking.
- The Fourth Annual New American Book Fair – Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the Downtown Columbus Metropolitan Library. All are invited; no RSVPS needed.

- Memorial Tournament, May 26 – June 1, 2025 - Mr. Malik stated that he hopes to see committee members at the tournament.

Ms. Nardecchia reminded members to check their emails for Memorial Tournament invitations from the City.

- Mt. Carmel Hospital Dublin officially opened April 22, 2025. The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month will kick off with an event there this Thursday, May 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Rise Up Columbus! Thursday, May 1, 2025, 4:30-7:30 p.m., is a cultural event representing all social groups within the Greater Columbus area.
- B.R.E.A.D. Nehemiah Action, Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 6:40-8:30 p.m. at the Celeste Center, Columbus, OH. The event brings together more than 2,000 interfaith partners from Central Ohio to advocate for justice issues that affect their communities. RSVPs needed.
- New American Commerce Group. Chair Malik stated that there are many new American businesses that are growing in this area and throughout the Midwest. A few multicultural leaders, including himself, have initiated a new organization, called the New American Commerce Group. We have already received commitment from city and state level leadership that they will help promote that organization. Its purpose is to promote businesses of diverse backgrounds to help them build and get established mainstream. He will be providing updates regarding future events and activities.

Roundtable

Ms. Fields inquired if there is anything specific on the June 24 CIAC agenda.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that there may be new CIAC members attending that meeting. The agenda topics are indefinite at this point. The agenda will be distributed by the Clerk of Council's office. The minutes of this meeting [and any other packet documents] will be embedded in that agenda for your review before the meeting.

Ms. Kilty announced that she has decided that she would not seek reappointment to this committee. She thanked other members for their perspective and insight; it has provided her personal growth. For the newer members, she urges them to look back at the origins of this committee, which was the Community Task Force on which Mr. Shoji served. She has many concerns about the future of DEI at all levels of government in our communities. She urges them all to use their voices; don't be shy, be audacious. Use your voice.

Chair Malik requested a moment of silence for members to say a prayer in honor of Pope Francis, who recently passed away. He admired his leadership skills and the way he gave back to the international community, including the Muslim culture of which he is a member. [moment of silence]

Adjournment

Chair Malik adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



Imran Malik, Chair



Assistant Clerk of Council

