

**AGENDA**  
**CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**FRIDAY, June 12, 2015 – 12:00 Noon**  
**Dodge City Public Library – 1001 N. Second Ave.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF** May 8, 2015 meeting

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of joining Welcoming Communities Campaign being launched through the White House.
2. Discussion of a Welcoming America proclamation as requested.
3. Discussion of the Board's interest to accept and convey to appropriate community leaders information either positive or negative.
4. Discussion of National Welcoming Week activity.

**BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES** (keep in mind)

1. Community Engagement Partnership Program.
2. National Welcoming Week – program recommendation
3. Racial Profiling/Bias Based Policing – report by Board representatives.
4. Multicultural Park Festival – report by Chamber representative.
5. Welcoming Cities Initiative–
6. Black History Month – February
7. Race Relations Day – February 14
8. Cinco de Mayo - May
9. May 21 is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
10. National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15-Oct. 15
11. Human Rights Day – December 10

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF –**

1. Police Dept. requested a letter of support on behalf of the Cultural Relations Advisory Board for their grant application for body worn cameras.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2015 Meeting: July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

**MINUTES**  
**CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Friday, May 8, 2015**  
**Dodge City Public Library**

On a motion by, Oliver, seconded by Debra the meeting was called to order.

Members present: Greta Clark, Debra Muylaert, Oliver Bland, Lado Ladoka, Melissa Espinoza, Mary Marquez, Robert Vinton, and Ernestor De La Rosa. Members absent: Elva Dominguez, Sergio Garcia and Jane Longmeyer.

Introductions were made for the benefit of the guest speaker.

On a motion by Greta, seconded by Oliver, the minutes were approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Ernestor De La Rosa reported that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Mobile Services was in Dodge City, Kansas for the second time during the last week of April and the first week of May. Ernestor informed the committee that the USCIS Mobile Services provides citizenship interviews and finger print services for individuals soliciting a Work VISA, Permanent Residency, Work Authorization and/ or Naturalization for Citizenship. Ernestor also reported that around 300 individuals from Southwest Kansas and the Northwestern Panhandle of Oklahoma received these services. USCIS is expected to come back again during the month of October.

**New Business:**

1. Ahmed presented on his experience on being arrested in Kansas. Ahmed recently moved to Cimarron, Kansas from Dallas, Texas. Six months ago Ahmed was driving from Dodge City to Cimarron after work. He shared that he was driving over the speed limit and was pulled over by a Kansas Sheriff. Ahmed used to buy and sell cars with his friend back in Dallas, Texas. At the time when he was pulled over, he had a dealer tag. The Sheriff asked for proof of insurance and his driver's license. After an hour of verifying information, the Sheriff gets back to Ahmed's and questions him about the vehicle's ownership. Since Ahmed had just bought the car and was using the dealer's tag and insurance, he had nothing to prove he was the owner of the vehicle that night.

After checking back and forth, the Sheriff arrested Ahmed. Ahmed tried to explain several times to the Sheriff the situation with the vehicle and his friend's dealership. Despite his efforts in trying to explain the situation, Ahmed was booked and processed in Gray County's jail. Ahmed felt that he was treated as a criminal for a minor traffic infraction that could have been addressed with a ticket. At the jail, Ahmed struggled to get out and pay the bond. His family wouldn't answer his calls and the jail wouldn't take his credit card to pay the \$100 bond. After 5 hours later, Ahmed was released and was able to resolve the situation.

Ahmed compared his experience with a similar incident in Dallas, Texas. The officer in Dallas gave him a ticket and let him go. At that time, Ahmed had only been in the United States for 2 years. It was the first time being pulled over, but the Texas officer was professional and more educated and took care of the situation positively. He felt that his experience in Kansas was different from his experience in Texas, because he felt discriminated and thought that the treatment was unfair.

After much discussion among committee members, the committee felt that an order of business would be to consider to be an avenue for citizens to express situations and experiences to share with the local leadership. The committee's job would only be to communicate this kinds of issues to boards, commissions and/or any organization that could help address issues like this.

The Committee also felt that a meeting with the State Director for Racial and Other Biased-Based Policing would be helpful to guide them on what to do in this type of situations. Greta Clark will contact the Kansas Attorney General's office to set up a date or conference call to see if they can visit with the committee.

#### **BOARD PROGRAMS:**

The committee was not able to discuss the board programs in detail.

Racial Profiling/Bias-Based Policing. Debra reported that they met on April 28th. Debra informed the committee that the meeting was on the same topic as January. Debra also reported that the Chief of Police is desperately looking for ideas on how to bring more bilingual police officers to work for the Police Department.

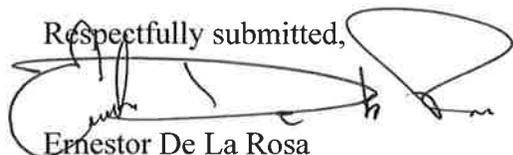
#### **Board Members/Staff Report:**

Lado reported that it is possible that he secured the funding for the interpreting training. He will find out more details and report back at the next meeting. The training would be held in Liberal, Kansas. There will be room for 15 individuals who wish to take advantage of the program. Individuals will be required to be fluent in English and in a second language. The interpreters training would be for general translation.

Robert reported that some signs at the Zoo were incorrectly translated. He felt that the Committee should also take the responsibility to make sure translations in the community are translated correctly.

On a motion by Oliver, seconded by Debra, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernestor De La Rosa

## Jane Longmeyer

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**From:** welcomingcities@googlegroups.com on behalf of Susan Downs-Karkos <susan@welcomingamerica.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 8:36 AM  
**To:** welcomingcities@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** Welcoming Communities Campaign extended

Hi everyone,

As many of you may know by now, The White House has postponed the launch of the Welcoming Communities Campaign due to timing issues, so it was not announced yesterday. The plan is to announce the campaign later this month. About 25 cities have signed up for the campaign so far. For those of you who were unable to make the ambitious timeline for joining last week, it's not too late to sign up - simply go to the email address below.

We'll keep you posted on other developments.

Warmly,  
Susan

**Susan Downs-Karkos** | Director of Strategic Partnerships

**Welcoming America: Building a Nation of Neighbors** | [www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org)

Tel: 303-808-1322 | [susan@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:susan@welcomingamerica.org)

Connect: **Facebook** | Follow: **Twitter**

On Jun 4, 2015, at 8:05 AM, Susan Downs-Karkos wrote:

Dear Welcoming Cities and Counties,

I wanted to send along another update on the Welcoming Communities Campaign, which the White House will be announcing on Tuesday next week.

A number of you have already signed up! These communities include: Dayton, Boise, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Macomb County and Charlotte. I know a number of others are actively working internally to make this official.

Once you decide you would like to join the campaign, here's all we need you to do: email [newamericans@who.eop.gov](mailto:newamericans@who.eop.gov) with a brief message that your city/county wants to join and with your point of contact information. (I assume you will be the point of contact). They plan to make the announcement on Tuesday, June 9. **You need to get your message in no later than COB this Friday, June 5.**

There will be more information to come but this is how we can make sure you are one of the select cities on the initial announcement. In the meantime, if you can drop me a line and let me know if your city/county is considering joining on, that would be most appreciated.

Thank you!  
Susan

**Susan Downs-Karkos** | Director of Strategic Partnerships

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On Jun 2, 2015, at 7:14 AM, Susan Downs-Karkos wrote:

Dear colleagues,

We have an exciting opportunity to share. Next week, the White House will officially launch the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign - an initiative that as Welcoming Cities and Counties, you helped to inspire and shape. **We are thrilled to share with you the opportunity to be among the group of first communities to be announced when the campaign goes public.** If you are interested, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

To learn more about what joining the campaign entails, and the related benefits and levels of commitment, please see the attached.

Please note: this is very much under embargo, so please keep this under wraps until further notice.

Best,  
Susan

**Susan Downs-Karkos** | Director of Strategic Partnerships

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Tel: 303-808-1322 | [susan@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:susan@welcomingamerica.org)

# Building Welcoming Communities Campaign: Fact Sheet

In November 2014, President Obama created a formal interagency body, the White House Task Force on New Americans (“Task Force”), charged with drafting a federal strategic action plan to strengthen the federal government’s integration efforts by making them more strategic and deliberate. This past April, the Task Force released its plan, *Strengthening Communities by Welcoming All Resident: A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant & Refugee Integration*. Recognizing the critical role that local communities play in immigrant and refugee integration efforts, the Task Force recommended that the Administration launch a campaign to encourage communities to develop or strengthen existing integration planning efforts.

Today, the President is launching its *Building Welcoming Communities Campaign* and calling on local communities to commit, collaborate, and act on a set of principles that focus on building inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and on advancing integration efforts in three core areas: civic, economic, and linguistic integration.

## Building Welcoming Communities – Principles

There are many ways in which state and local governments across the country can demonstrate their commitment to building welcoming communities and immigrant integration. Some have created formal institutions such as Offices for New Americans and Immigrant Affairs. Others have published proclamations or resolutions declaring themselves to be welcoming communities. Still others are in the process of developing and pursuing integration plans.

Regardless of where your community is along the welcoming spectrum, the Administration encourages you to participate in the *Building Welcoming Communities Campaign*. Communities can participate in the Campaign by committing to one of three tiers of involvement:

**Tier 1: Making the Initial Commitment:** For communities that are new to welcoming efforts, they can commit to:

- ✓ Bring immigrants and refugees and the broader community together to **develop policies, programs, or initiatives that build welcoming communities** and provide all residents with the knowledge and tools to thrive and fully participate in their communities.
- ✓ **Communicate the value for all residents** of advancing an immigrant integration agenda, recognizing that our community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed. This could include hosting events or issuing a proclamation, resolution or press release to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month, World Refugee Day, Citizenship Day, or Welcoming Week.
- ✓ **Demonstrate and share information on our progress**, using the Roadmap provided below, as well as the tools and resources to be offered through this Campaign.

**Tier 2: Enhancing Collaboration:** These communities take the next step by committing to:

- ✓ **Establishing a multi-sector collaborative that will create a vision and strategy, and where possible, a comprehensive plan,** to expand opportunities for new Americans and all residents.

**Tier 3: Taking Action and Demonstrating Progress:** These communities also commit to serving as a national model by **demonstrating exceptional progress along the roadmap and in one or more of three key action areas**, while engaging both immigrants and receiving communities:

- ✓ **Encouraging immigrants and refugees to fully participate in civic life** by building bridges between these newcomers and receiving communities, educating them on their rights, promoting public awareness about the importance of citizenship, preparing eligible individuals for the naturalization process, and encouraging all residents to give back to their communities.
- ✓ **Harnessing the full potential of all residents** by ensuring that workforce systems are able to leverage the skills and talents of immigrants and refugees, empowering newcomers with the tools to build and grow small businesses, and unlocking the doors to homeownership and financial literacy.
- ✓ **Supporting English language acquisition** of new Americans by strengthening and expanding dual-language learning, providing pathways to postsecondary education and career training and development, creating welcoming schools, engaging parents and families, and investing in young leaders.

## Campaign Benefits & Opportunities

Participating communities will benefit from various opportunities, depending on their level of commitment, including:

- ✓ **Recognition for Campaign participation**, including listing your community on public materials, profiling community efforts on the White House website, and eligibility for recognition as an outstanding Welcoming Community at a White House event;
- ✓ **Technical assistance and consultation** from federal agencies and national stakeholder partners through webinars, direct coaching, and site visits; and
- ✓ **Access to the White House Building Welcoming Communities Convening** where local communities, federal agencies, and national stakeholders will share best practices.

## How do you sign-up?

Notify the White House that your community will participate in the Campaign by emailing [NewAmericans@who.eop.gov](mailto:NewAmericans@who.eop.gov) and identify a point of contact on your staff. You can announce your participation in the campaign with a press release or media statement.

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Mayor Joyce Warshaw  
City Hall  
P.O. Box 880, 806 N. 2nd Ave.  
Dodge City, Kansas 67801

Dear Mayor Warshaw,

As you may know, Welcoming America is a nationwide organization that focuses on highlighting the positive contributions of immigrants to American communities through several programs and events. In this framework, as the Welcoming America affiliate for Kansas and with our mission to educate and inspire communities to foster climates of hospitality and reconciliation, we would like to encourage you to endorse a Welcoming Proclamation in Dodge City, to reiterate your commitment to creating better communities.

Welcoming Proclamations are a nationwide initiative promoted by the different chapters of Welcoming America in many states. In Kansas, the Mayors of the Cities of Gardner, Olathe, Liberal, Emporia, Leavenworth and Lenexa, as well as the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City have signed a Welcoming Proclamation.

We believe that the diverse community that lives in Dodge City would benefit greatly from this proclamation and it would help bring its residents together around their commonalities so that they can better understand their differences and be good neighbors.

We would like to congratulate again on your commitment to building trust among your community. Know that you have our support and that we are eager to help as you strive to make Dodge City a premier welcoming community.

Blessings and Peace,



*Catalina H. Velarde*  
President

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation/Welcoming Kansas  
816-356-7100

Sample Welcoming Proclamation

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation that welcomes people who yearn to breathe free; and

WHEREAS Dodge City, Kansas is a welcoming city that respects the innate dignity of all people; and

WHEREAS, welcoming initiatives and proclamations aim to build cooperation, respect and compassion among all in our community, including New and Aspiring Americans alike; and;

WHEREAS, Dodge City, Kansas has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place, where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, residents of Dodge City, Kansas live up to the highest American values of acceptance and equality and treat newcomers with decency and respect, creating a vibrant community for all to live in; and

WHEREAS, Dodge City, Kansas is committed to continue building a neighborly and welcoming atmosphere in our community where all are welcome, accepted and appreciated.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor for the city of Dodge City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim the city of Dodge City, Kansas as a

WELCOMING COMMUNITY

*On this day of March 22, 2015*

WELCOMING  
AMERICA



## National Welcoming Week

*Connecting Neighbors, Serving Communities*

September 12-20, 2015

Host an Event

Find an Event

During the week of September 12-20, 2015, Welcoming America and its partners across the country will host National Welcoming Week, a nationwide event that will highlight the contributions of immigrants to American communities. Throughout the country, these events will bring together immigrants and U.S.-born community members in a spirit of unity.

Sign up for Updates!



Thank you for making National Welcoming Week 2014 a great success!  
There were over **160 events** attracting **15,000 participants** nationwide.

Can't host or join an event? You can help by donating to support National Welcoming Week.

# City of Dodge City



CITY HALL  
P.O. Box 880  
Dodge City, KS 67801-0880  
Phone: 620/225-8100  
FAX: 620/225-8144  
TTY: 620/225-8115  
[www.dodgecity.org](http://www.dodgecity.org)

June 8, 2015

RE: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cultural Relations Advisory Board, an advisory board appointed by the City Commission, would like to lend its support to the City of Dodge City Police Department's application for funding support to purchase body worn cameras for their officers.

The purpose of the Cultural Relations Advisory Board is to advise the City Commission related to or affecting minority communities within Dodge City, to monitor the policies and practices of the City of Dodge City to issue fair and equitable application, and to act as a resource for intercultural awareness, education, and celebration among all people. The Dodge City community is diverse in that over twenty-five cultures are represented.

The Board offers its assistance through its diverse membership to the Police Department when needed. In light of national circumstances that have arisen, specifically in the last couple of years, we believe the body worn cameras would present a great value to the officers and public. The Police Department staff has given a lot of thought and research into this equipment and asked the Cultural Relations Advisory Board for their support.

We hope that you will give the City of Dodge City Police Department's grant request your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Greta Clark,  
Cultural Relations Advisory Board Chair

