



**WELCOMING AMERICA COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
OAK ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT CENTER 1ST FLOOR
115 E. WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025, 4:00 PM**

The Welcoming America Commission convened in regular session at 4:00 PM, April 21, 2025. Meeting called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Adinda Akmal	Board Member	Absent
Kyle Kapper	Board Member	Present
Jish Nair	Board Member	Present
Surinder Sethi	Board Member	Present
Michael Hurt	Staff Liaison	Present

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

No items were considered.

5. Regular Agenda

- A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the **Date**, Regular Welcoming America Commission Meeting. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Motion to approve: Commissioner Sethi. Seconded by Commissioner Kapper. All in favor. Motion carried.

- B. Nomination and Action to Appoint a Chairperson for Welcoming America Commission *(Recommended Motion: The Commission nominate and vote to approve a Chairperson.)*

Commissioners tabled the nomination and appointment of Chairperson until May 2025 meeting.

- C. Presentation and Discussion on comments and suggestions made by residents, community groups, etc., impacting the well-being of immigrants to the City *(Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.)*

Sarah Mellor, Immigration Project Social Services Manager gave a presentation on the work of the Immigration Project. She elaborated on some of the issues facing immigrant residents and how decisions being made at the federal level are impacting the lives of local immigrant residents. She also informed the commissioner of the different types of visas available and of the mandatory registration requirement for all immigrants. Some of the local immigrant population have been informed that they have 60 days to leave the country, particularly those immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela. There are no longer any private citizen sponsorships available and there is no minimum age for deportation.

D. Discussion of establishing Welcoming America Standards (*Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.*)

Commissioners were given folders containing a hard copy of the Welcoming America Standards. There was a brief discussion regarding becoming a certified welcoming city and thoughts on how the \$12,000 certification fee could be raised.

E. Presentation and Discussion on any update of current issues affecting the immigrant community.

The commissioners discussed the current immigrant deportation policies in effect.

F. Discussion on program development for Welcoming Week (*Recommended Motion: None, Presentation only.*)

None discussed.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2025

6. Commissioner Comments

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn-Commissioner Sethi. Seconded by Commissioner Kapper. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Staff Liaison