



**Welcoming America Commission - Regular Session Agenda  
Government Center Boardroom, 1st Floor, Oak Conference Room  
115 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701  
Monday, November 17, 2025 - 4:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Public Comment**

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org) at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at [cityblm.org/register](http://cityblm.org/register) at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

**4. Consent Agenda**

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

- A. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2025 Special Welcoming America Commission Meeting., as requested by the Human Resources Department.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)
- B. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2025 Regular Welcoming America Commission Meeting., as requested by the Human Resources Department.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

**5. Regular Agenda**

- A. **Presentation and Discussion on the process of obtaining the formal certified Welcoming designation for the City of Bloomington., as requested by the Human Resources Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)
- B. **Discussion of establishing Welcoming America Standards., as requested by the Human Resources Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)
- C. **Presentation and Discussion on any update of current issues affecting the immigrant community., as requested by the Human Resources Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

**6. Commission Member Comments**

**7. Adjournment**

Individuals with disabilities planning to attend the meeting who require reasonable accommodations to observe and/or participate, or who have questions about the accessibility of the meeting, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 309-434-2468 or [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org).



**Minutes  
Welcoming America Commission - Special Session  
Monday, September 22, 2025 - 4:00 PM**

The Welcoming America Commission convened in special session in the Oak Conference Room at the Government Center.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Commissioner Jishnuram Nair.

**2. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Commission Chair Jishnuram Nair  
Commissioner Surinder Sethi  
Commissioner Courtney Eddleman  
Commissioner Adinda Akmal

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Kyle Kapper

**Staff Present:** Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison

**3. Public Comment**

No Public Comment was received.

**4. Consent Agenda**

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

**Commissioner Eddleman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sethi, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.**

**Chair Jishnuram Nair directed the Staff Liason to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner Sethi, Commission Chair Nair, Commissioner Eddleman, Commissioner Akmal

**Motion Carried.**

- A. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2025 Regular Welcoming America Commission Meeting.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)
- B. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2025 Regular Welcoming America Commission Meeting.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

**5. Regular Agenda**

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

Staff Liaison Michael Hurt called for nominations for the Commission Chair.

**Commissioner Nair nominated himself for the Commissioner Chair.**

**Chair Jishnuram Nair directed the Staff Liason to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner Sethi, Commission Chair Nair, Commissioner Eddleman, Commissioner Akmal

**Motion Carried.**

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

Staff Liaison Michael Hurt called for nominations for the Commission Chair.

**Commissioner Eddleman nominated herself for Vice Chairperson.**

**Chair Jishnuram Nair directed the Staff Liason to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner Sethi, Commission Chair Nair, Commissioner Eddleman, Commissioner Akmal

**Motion Carried.**

- C. **Presentation and Discussion on process to obtaining the formal certified Welcoming designation for the City of Bloomington.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Staff Liaison Michael Hurt described the Welcoming America Commissioning process to be Commissioned as a Welcoming City. He noted that the City of Champaign was currently the only municipality in Illinois with such a designation. He explained that the application process was lengthy and came at a cost of \$11,000.

Commissioner Sethi asked if the City of Bloomington would cover the application fee. Staff Liaison Hurt stated he would need to inquire with Administration.

- D. **Discussion of establishing Welcoming America Standards.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Commissioner Sethi asked if non-Bloomington residents could be a part of the Commission. Staff Liaison Hurt explained that only Bloomington residents could be part of Bloomington's Welcoming America Commission.

Commissioner Sethi asked Staff Liaison Hurt to inquire with Administration to amend the City policy to allow non-residents to be part of the Commission.

Commissioner Sethi confirmed with Staff Liaison Hurt that the B/N Welcoming Organization could attend the meeting since it was an open meeting to the public, but they would be attending as the general public and would not have voting rights.

- E. **Presentation and Discussion on any update of current issues affecting the immigrant community.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

No discussion was had.

**6. Commission Member Comments**

Commissioner Sethi stated that he would be attending the next B/N Welcoming's meeting and would invite their members to attend the next Welcoming America Commission meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Sethi motioned to adjourn the meeting.**

**Chair Jishnuram Nair directed the Staff Liason to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner Sethi, Commission Chair Nair, Commissioner Eddleman, Commissioner Akmal

**Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

**City of Bloomington**

**Attest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison

DRAFT



**MINUTES**

**Welcoming America Commission - Regular Session  
Government Center Boardroom, 1st Floor, Oak Conference Room  
115 E. Washington St, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Monday, October 20, 2025, 4:00 PM**

The Welcoming America Commission convened in regular session on October 20, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Surinder Sethi	Board Member	Absent
Adinda Akmal	Board Member	Absent
Kyle Kapper	Board Member	Absent
Jishnuram Nair	Board Chairperson	Present
Courtney Eddleman	Board Member	Absent
Michael Hurt	Staff Liaison	Present

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Roll call taken and indicated no quorum was present. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2025

**6. Commissioner Comments**

**7. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Liaison



**Regular Agenda Item No. 5.A.**

**For Welcoming America Commission:** November 17, 2025

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Presentation and Discussion on the process of obtaining the formal certified Welcoming designation for the City of Bloomington., as requested by the Human Resources Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Presentation Only.

**Strategic Plan:**

**Goal:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Objective:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Background:**

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:**

**Financial Impact:**

**Attachments:**

None



**Regular Agenda Item No. 5.B.**

**For Welcoming America Commission:** November 17, 2025

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Discussion of establishing Welcoming America Standards., as requested by the Human Resources Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Presentation Only.

**Strategic Plan:**

**Goal:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Objective:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Background:**

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:**

**Financial Impact:**

**Attachments:**

None



**Regular Agenda Item No. 5.C.**

**For Welcoming America Commission:** November 17, 2025

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Presentation and Discussion on any update of current issues affecting the immigrant community., as requested by the Human Resources Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Presentation Only.

**Strategic Plan:**

**Goal:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Objective:** (please highlight this text and then replace by selecting from "Text Snippets" above)

**Background:**

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:**

**Financial Impact:**

**Attachments:**

None