



Immigration Task Force

Wednesday, October 9, 1pm-2pm

City Training Center

Agenda

Mayor's Update

Guie Miller: Volunteer

General Discussion

Contacts

Mayor Murnyn, mayor@findlayohio.gov

Jaclynn Hohman, Mayor's Office, jhohman@findlayohio.gov

Zach Thomas, CCE/ADAMHS, Zachary.thomas@findlay.edu

Events

Head to findlaylibrary.org/events to access the English class schedule.

For all other community events head to visitfindlay.com/events.



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Mayor Muryn welcomed the group and gave a reminder that the City of Findlay is not bringing individuals here and is not paying for their housing, food, transportation, or anything else. She reported that she understands concerns from the previous meeting regarding the involvement of employers and will be having a discussion with the group of them to better understand their needs and how they can assist in the process of helping their employees succeed. Muryn stated that the City of Findlay takes human trafficking concerns very seriously and has had no reports or reason to believe this is occurring in our community. She has spoken with First Diversity and the Ohio Attorney General regarding these concerns as well.

Mayor Muryn reported that she has been having conversations with Blanchard Valley Health System and Hancock Public Health regarding how to best utilize the available resources. They are looking at providing office hours at various offices where a translator would be present as well as increasing the availability of the mobile health clinic. There is now a shareable guide that helps individuals understand where they should seek care based on what ailment they are experiencing. She is discussing with employers the need for individuals to sign up for health insurance if they are eligible. There are challenges with helping individuals understand the necessity for healthcare when the information is being provided in English and there are vast differences with our system and that of other countries.

Mayor Muryn reported that her office is continuing to have conversations with the State regarding what they can do to help offset some of the challenges our community is facing with a new population. This includes driver safety resources and translation resources for various agencies. She reported that there continues to be no crime increase from immigrants in our community. One of the items on the strategic plan is to create a translators list to be shared. This list will now be tracked privately so that individuals that volunteer to help are not overwhelmed by many requests. If you need a translator please reach out to the Mayor's office and you will be connected with a volunteer.

Guie Miller gave an update on her work with Findlay City Schools. She is fluent in Haitian Creole and now works with the schools so that teachers, students, and parents are able to communicate and understand each other better. She focuses on helping them better understand the rules of the U.S. school system as well as assisting in various paperwork. She explained that the three biggest priorities in Haitian Culture are "God, Education, and Family."

Joy Brown gave an update to the group on her written communications efforts. The first two articles have been published and are available on the ADAHMS website. These will also be shared on social media and potentially published in the newspaper.



Mayor Muryn stated that additional housing is not a focus of the Immigration Task Force. She understands that housing is a challenge in our community but there is a balance with a potentially transient population. An attendee from a housing company said that her tenants qualify for market rate housing and asked what resources are available to educate on housing customs in the U.S. This included the difference between family style living and multi-family style living. Muryn said that her office will work to provide information that can be shared. There was discussion regarding resources that could be shared video-style due to varying levels of literacy.

An attendee came forward and thanked Mayor Muryn for attending an English course. He said that many individuals have felt uneasy recently but have found Findlay to be a nice community as a whole.

Mayor Muryn thanked the group for their continued work and asked them to reach out with any questions they may have. The frequently asked questions will be available on the website next week. She asked the group to share any translated educational resources they have so that it can be shared with everyone.

The meeting concluded.