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**Common Path****in this issue >>>**

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**delegates council >>>****MARCC Delegates Invite Local Expert to Speak on Immigration Law**

Rob Wall is our guest speaker for the March 16th Delegates Council meeting. He is a staff attorney with Ohio Justice and Policy Center. OJPC is a non-profit law office that works for productive, statewide criminal justice reform, and eliminating racism from the criminal justice system. Wall joined OJPC in 2007 after receiving a prestigious Skadden fellowship. As a Skadden Fellow, Wall provided community-based legal assistance to youth caught up in the criminal justice system. He has been closely following the Secure Communities issue locally and performing 'Know Your Rights' workshops and outreach to immigrant communities.

**March 16th at noon in Synod Hall, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.**

**immigration >>>****New Rules for Immigrants**

*A new program active in Hamilton County since July brings immigration control to local police*

**What it is:** Secure Communities is a program issued by Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), overseen by the Department of Homeland Security, to identify and deport undocumented immigrants who are stopped, detained or arrested by local law enforcement. The program provides local authorities with access to national immigration databases and requires them to screen detainees for immigration status in addition to the standard background check via FBI criminal record databases. As of February 2010, it was active in 1,049 jurisdictions in 39 states. In 7 states it is active statewide.

**What it's supposed to do:** When it was launched by ICE in March 2008, it was promoted as a voluntary program that local authorities could choose to utilize to identify and deport violent criminals who have illegally entered the United States.

**What it actually does:** The evidence overwhelmingly shows that it is being used to deport people with minor offenses or no criminal record at all. A study in Florida shows that 80% of those deported were never convicted of a violent crime, and 42% were deported with a spotless criminal record. Also, according to internal documents recently released under the Freedom of In-

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formation Act, ICE officials have quietly adopted the policy that Secure Communities is mandatory and that it will be required in every jurisdiction nationwide by 2013. Those that have attempted to opt-out, include four states

Colorado, New York, Oregon and Washington, Santa Clara County in CA and the cities of Arlington, VA and San Francisco, CA. They have faced legal and bureaucratic roadblocks which have stopped them from succeeding.

**Why it's dangerous:** In practice, it deputizes local authorities to operate as federal immigration *(continued on next page)*

# New Rules for Immigrants

(cont. from p.1)

control agents. When undocumented immigrants equate local police with ICE, they are less likely to call the police if they are a witness to, or victim of, criminal activity. In this environment crime is permitted to flourish, domestic violence goes unchecked and esteem for law enforcement declines. Further, some police forces may be tempted to target immigrants through racial profiling in an attempt to remove people who are undocumented. There is an absence of a formal complaint procedure for those who feel they have been unfairly detained (for example, a minor traffic violation) for the actual purpose of checking their immigration status. (MARCC is working with local organizations to document these incidents in the absence of a formal procedure. There is a complaint form on our website available in [English](#) & [Spanish](#) that can be downloaded for this purpose.) Finally, local authorities spending time on the Secure Communities Program reduces time spent focusing on policing dangerous criminal acts. It acts also as a drain on their often limited financial resources.

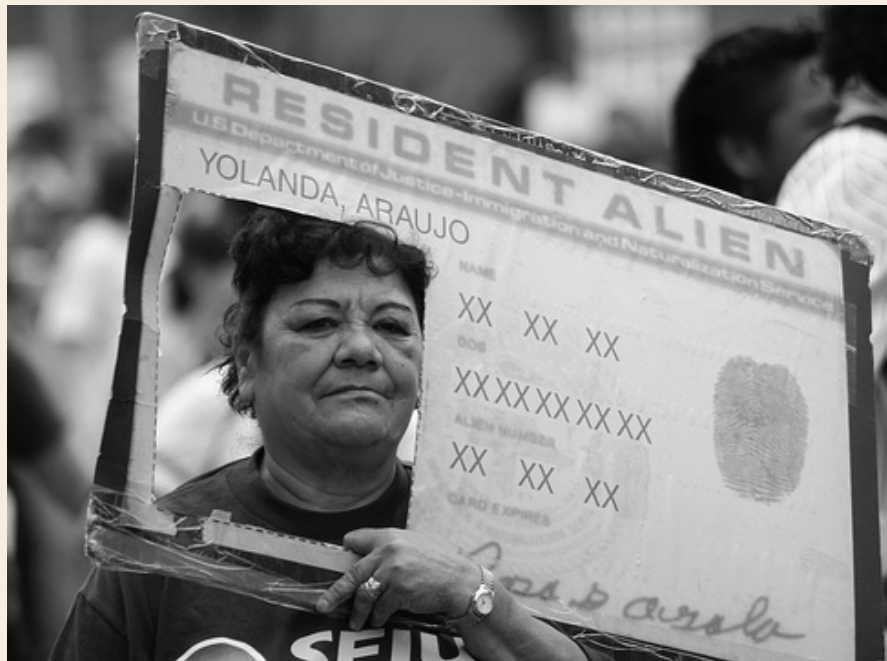


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**Why it's unjust:** Legal immigrants and other minorities are targeted and held until they can prove their immigration status. For those who are not documented, they can be deported even if they are model citizens or veterans and regardless of how long they have been here. The “crime” that leads to their immigration check can be as minor as failure to come to a complete stop or to use a turn signal. In practice this will do much more than deport violent criminals; it will split up families and deport people who have successfully adapted to life in America, served in our armed forces or otherwise contribute to the health and stability of our communities.

**What is needed:** States, local communities and many elected officials are asking for a uniform, fair and equitable Immigration Reform federal legislation enacted into law and whose application is just and consistent throughout the United States.

## **FACT:**

Anyone who is not a U.S. citizen can be deported. This includes immigrants in the country lawfully as well as undocumented persons (e.g. legal permanent residents, refugees, people granted TPS, etc.)

- Regardless of how long they have been in the U.S.
- Regardless of their family and community ties

*Homelessness / Affordable Housing >>>*

## MARCC Joins Homeless Families Task Force

*The Family Housing Stability Task Force was organized over concerns registered by forty agencies brought to the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition over families struggling not to become homeless.*

The process includes a steering committee and working groups made up of housing and service professionals and representatives from the broader community. The purpose is to gather data that identifies the number of families struggling or on the border of homelessness and their current use of social support systems (child support, unemployment benefits, utility supplement payments, food bank needs, etc.). Turn this data into a report that identifies the needs of these families along with recommendations. MARCC has agreed to serve on this task force.

For more information check our at website <http://www.marconline.com>

## CHMA Found Guilty of Civil Right Violations

A response was given to civil rights complaints against the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority filed by the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and other groups. CMHA was found guilty on 3 out of the 4 complaints.

- CMHA Board restricted purchases of property in Green Township, a predominantly white neighborhood.
- Families with vouchers who lived in Price Hill were unfairly targeted for enforcement and removal from the program.
- Previous Board Chairman Arnold Barnett restricted female and African American candidates in the executive director search process.

## Report Shows Need for More Permanent Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing for single individuals needs to be increased according to the Homeless to Homes Report 2009. So far those units include 22 at the Jimmy Heath House which opened in December 2010 and is now full. The Anna Louise Inn is schedule to have 85 PSH units completed by the end of 2011. Talbert House, Inc. will have 63 PSH units located at the Dennison Hotel in Downtown Cincinnati, the renovation schedule to begin next fall. The Dennison Hotel renovation will be done by The Model Group with a loan from 3CDC. The total number of new PSH units recommended by the Homeless to Homes Report, excluding The Jimmy Heath House, is 1,020 units.

## Dismissal of Officer in Thomas Tasing Case Upheld

*City Manager Dahoney's decision to fire Officer Anthony Plummer in the wake of the 2009 tasing case involving the daughter of Cincinnati City Councilman Cecil Thomas was upheld by an outside arbitrator.*

In September 2009 MARCC was asked to convene clergy leaders of the African American community at the request of Cincinnati Police Chief Streicher to discuss the August 23rd tasing of Celeste Thomas by Officer Anthony Plummer. Clergy Leaders, MARCC and Chief Streicher met to review incident facts and next steps. Chief Streicher asked MARCC to monitor the process. African American clergy leaders with MARCC support outlined the facts at a press conference showing an excessive use of force on the part of Officer Plummer and called for a fair hearing of the incident. The case was heard by the Citizens Complaint Authority following their investiga-

tion. CCA recommended to City Manager Dohoney dismissal of Officer Plummer. The City Manager agreed and fired Officer Plummer in December 2009. The Fraternal Order of Police challenged that decision. The decision went into arbitration. The arbitrator upheld Plummer's firing January 10, 2011. This outcome reflects the "good work" of the Citizens Complaint Authority establish through the Collaborative Agreement. It is also important to note an [Enquirer analysis in 2008](#) of 10 years (1998-2008) of police records found that arbitrators ruled against the city and reinstated fired officers in 16 of the 18 cases they decided.

## marcc News Briefs

### Coyle Elected as 2011 Board President

H.F. (Pat) Coyle of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio was elected as President of MARCC for 2011. Mr. Coyle has served as an officer on the MARCC Executive Board for three years.

### MARCC Welcomes New Staff

Sarah G. Geiger joined the MARCC staff as Office Administrator in January. Ms. Geiger has served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay for two years, is fluent in Spanish and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Her non-profit experience also includes working for the Arkansas Hospice Foundation and the Heifer Ranch Project of Heifer International. She brings outstanding writing and technology skills for newsletters, internet research and the website.

### Results are In for CPS Minority Hiring

Cincinnati Public Schools Community Benefits Agreement cumulative results are in since its July 2010 implementation. According to the CPS Workforce Summary Report of February 18, 2011, which is based on hours worked, it shows hires within the Metropolitan Statistical Area at 79% and within CPS at 14.8%. Of those hired 22.7% are Minority (males + females) and 13.2% African American (males + females). The CPS diversity goal on construction projects is 20%, which was exceeded by 2.7%. There are at least 10 more school construction projects yet to be bid upon. EMS (Ellington Management Services Inc.) hired by CPS will track and continue to provide quarterly reports on CPS Workforce and Construction Contracting data. MARCC served on CPS Cincy Building Task Force which developed the Community Benefits Agreement whose goal was to improve diversity in the CPS school construction workforce.

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Association of Unity Churches

Baptist Ministers Conference  
of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Conference  
(Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Episcopal Diocese of  
Southern Ohio

Greek Orthodox Church of  
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas

Interdenominational  
Ministerial Alliance

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

Miami Association  
(American Baptists)

Ohio River Valley District  
(United Methodist Church)

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Southwest Ohio-Northeast  
Kentucky Division  
(The Salvation Army)

Unitarian Universalist Council  
of Greater Cincinnati

United Church of Christ

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Sarah G. Geiger  
*Office Administrator*

## marcc is...

A coalition of Judicatories.

By JUDICATORIES, we mean the local, decision-making bodies of national denominations.

Each of these Judicatories is a valid, autonomous body.

MARCC is a Coalition, a way of enabling these 16 Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Muslim, and Protestant Judicatories to work together on a few, agreed-upon, local social Concerns to make life better for people in metropolitan Cincinnati.

In the language of scripture, the religious community can work on social problems in three ways:

- prophetic (holding up the absolute standards of God, OR
- priestly (caring for each individual child of God), OR
- kingly (or politically, choosing the best possible solution).

MARCC has been a self-conscious decision by Cincinnati Judicatories to work together in a kingly or political style.

Cincinnati Judicatories have learned over the years that to be effective together, Judicatories need to work

- on a few concerns
- that are capable of local resolution,
- where there is a moral, religious concern, and
- where we can do our own research & fact-finding.
- We make major decisions by consensus of the member Judicatories.  
(If any one Judiciary says "No," the coalition of Judicatories does not work on it together.)
- We work on the concerns that are most important, urgent, and do able by the religious community.
- We try to work with decision makers when we can, and give them the credit.
- We try to leave the civic discourse at least a little better than we found it.

Through MARCC, Judicatories make decisions

- every year, at Judicatories' Shared Planning Conference, about which 2 local social concerns to work on in the coming year,
- every month, at Delegates Council (by a consensus of Judicatories) about major involvements in these 2 Concerns, and
- every week, at Executive Board (1 representative from each Judiciary), about how, when, and with whom to work.

**MARCC** is a continuing effort by Cincinnati Judicatories, under God

**"...to forgo the luxury of separate ways  
when a common path can be found..."**