

# the Common Path

## in this issue >>>

- ◆ *Local Cost of Immigration Enforcement*
- ◆ *The New Face of Homelessness*
- ◆ *MARCC Joins Talks to Pick New Police Chief*
- ◆ *African Interfaith Leaders Visit MARCC*

## metro cincinnati interfaith youth >>>

### Upcoming Interfaith Youth Events

- Tour of the Skirball Museum and Interfaith Dialogue with Rabbinical Students at Hebrew Union College, May 15th 3-5pm, [3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220](#)
- Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth End-of-the-Year Picnic, June 9th, 12-5pm, Woodland Mound Park, [8250 Old Kellogg Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45255](#)

To sign up email [marcc@fuse.net](mailto:marcc@fuse.net)



Follow MCIY: [twitter](#) [facebook](#)

## immigration >>>

### Can We Really Afford S.B.98?

*As the number of local immigration enforcement programs soar, so do the costs to their communities*

Arrangements between the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency and local law enforcement agencies have enjoyed a surge this year in Ohio. At the beginning of the year, the Secure Communities program was active in 13 OH counties. In just the last four months it has **exploded into 62 more counties** for a total of 75. The other major power-sharing program, usually called 287(g) after the section of the federal law that created it, is currently only active in Butler County. However, **S.B. 98** is a bill being debated in the OH statehouse that, if passed, would activate the program statewide.

Proponents of these types of enforcement programs rarely speak to the costs involved, economic and otherwise, but as more and more states and communities around the country enter into them, it has become increasingly clear that they come with an enormous price tag for local communities. With both our city and state facing budget crises, can local & state government really afford to enforce immigration law?



Here are some of the facts:

- According to the Government Accountability Office, 62% of local law enforcement agencies that participate in 287(g) receive no federal reimbursement for any costs associated with the program.
- The federal government reimburses cities for less than 25% of city and county jailing costs, an expense incurred under all federal-local enforcement programs.

# Can We Really Afford S.B. 98?

(cont. from p.1)

- Startup costs alone for 287(g) programs are notably high for local authorities. Overtime hours to train officers in immigration enforcement techniques often goes into the thousands. In El Paso County, CO, 287(g) staff used 2,200 overtime hours and received \$0 in reimbursement.
- Local enforcement programs also divert police time and resources away from criminal matters. After Maricopa County, AZ began immigration enforcement, deputies started arriving late 2/3 of the time for emergency 911 calls. Arrest rates dropped while reported violent crime increased 69%.
- Local enforcement programs deter immigrants, their loved ones and neighbors from reporting criminal activity. A re-

cent study in Salt Lake City, Utah found that one in three city residents would be unwilling to report drug-related activity if police had the power to determine citizenship status.

- Deporting immigrants also undermines the local economy and tax base. In major metropolitan areas, immigrants account for 20% of economic output. In Chicago immigrants spend \$2.9 billion per year on goods and services, which support 31,098 local jobs. Although Cincinnati has a relatively smaller immigrant population, the number of foreign-born residents has doubled in the last ten years to over 80,000.

Source: "The Cost of Failure: The Burden of Immigration Enforcement in America's Cities, Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, 2011.

*homelessness & affordable housing>>>*

## Studying the New Face of Homelessness: Families at Risk

*The current economic downturn has hit families who are homeless and blue-collar families hard. Increasingly, pastors and social service agencies are being approached by families in need of first-time assistance. MARCC has joined efforts to study the problem locally.*

Photo: Creative Commons licensed photo by bleu man--Yunchung Lee on Flickr.com

### The Family Homelessness & Housing Stability Task Force

**Mission:** Create and implement a holistic, strategic plan to decrease the number of families on the edge of homelessness in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, expand and strengthen the quality of existing services and create lasting outcomes so families don't return to homelessness.

The Taskforce Steering Committee met twice in April with University of Cincinnati Graduate School of Social Work professor Dr. Jeanette Taylor and two graduate students. They will help with the Research and Data Collection phase of the study on family homelessness and near homelessness. The purpose of the research team is to assist the task force in formulating the questions and identification of ways to collect the data and number crunching.

So far, questions are being formulated by members of the Task Force for the Research Team. These questions will be tested out in focus groups and then refined by the Team for surveys. The focus groups will be made up of families who are either homeless or bordering on homelessness and the individual surveys will be given to members of the same target population. For example, some questions may ask the head of household of a family who



is homeless what led to their needing help with housing and other resources. The response could be unemployment which led to a foreclosure, health care costs of a chronically sick child or spouse, a single parent maxing out on child care assistance then forced to quit a job in order to care for the child, etc.

Two of the four work sub-committees have begun to meet to generate more questions for the study. The sub-committees include Housing Access and Stability Committee, Emergency Response Committee, Prevention Committee and Resources and Data Committee.

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

# African Interfaith Leaders Dialogue with MARCC

*MARCC was one of several organizations recently selected by the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council to host an exchange with interfaith leaders from Africa.*

The international delegation visited Cincinnati as part of the [International Visitor Leadership Program](#), a global professional exchange program sponsored through the U.S. State Department. The long-running program connects visiting groups of current and emerging foreign leaders with key American organizations working on comparable issues. The goals of the program are to foster cross-cultural understanding, enhance collaboration and facilitate a mutually-rewarding educational exchange for participants and host organizations.

The participants in each group hail from a variety of countries, but are united by a common focus. In this case, the group's focus was "Religious Tolerance and Interfaith Dialogue". Participants were faith community leaders selected from the African countries of Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania

and Zimbabwe. They began their 3-week program with an orientation in Washington, DC. They were briefed on U.S. legal protections for religious freedom, the separation of church and state and the character of American religious diversity before coming to Cincinnati. Their visit to Cincinnati was planned and coordinated by GCWAC.

This was not the first time MARCC has hosted a foreign delegation. In the past, MARCC has been asked to host groups from Vietnam and the Ambar Province of Iraq. Because MARCC's model as an interfaith organization that directly addresses public policy is fairly unique (as opposed to groups that instead provide direct services), it has attracted attention from national and international groups interested in interfaith justice and religious freedom. Rabbi Margaret Meyer, a member of the MARCC Executive Board who was present during the recent exchange said, "One of the first questions usually asked from these groups is - 'How does the government support you?' So, we said that we don't receive any government support; we're supported entirely by the religious bodies. One delegate said very blatantly that (where he is from) all

politicians are corrupt and people only trust religious leaders. The fact that we can speak out on issues independent of government influence (was very compelling)." MARCC Executive Director Margaret Fox said, "Representatives from other countries, both lay and ordained, in these dialogues have asked how to apply MARCC as a model for interfaith cooperation and improving public policies in their respective countries. What a tribute this request is to all seventeen judicatory members of our interfaith coalition."

For the remainder of the program, the group will meet with interfaith and religious leaders in Salt Lake City and New Orleans. Participants will then take what they have learned and apply it in their home countries. Every IVLP participant is carefully selected by American Foreign Service Officers at U.S. Embassies throughout the world to ensure they have influence and integrity in their communities; there is no application process. Since 1940, thousands of distinguished men and women have participated in the IVLP program, including 51 current and 275 former [Heads of Government and Chiefs of State](#).

*police / community relations >>>*

## MARCC Joins Screening Committee for New Police Chief

*MARCC was invited to serve on the Police Chief Screening Committee, which began interviewing applicants the week of April 25th.*

The Screening Committee is made up of six people and one facilitator. The six people come from the following organizations: MARCC, Over the Rhine Community Foundation, United Black Front, Citizens for Civic Renewal, the Assistant Vice President for Campus Services/Public Safety of the University of Kentucky - also the former Police Chief of Lexington Kentucky, and one of the assistant city managers. The Director of Human Resources for the City of Cincinnati acts as the facilitator and has no vote. The names of the final 3 to 4 candidates for whom the Screening Committee can reach a consensus, will be submitted to City Manager Dohoney. The city manager

will make the final decision. If he does not like any of the final candidates then the Screening Committee has to start over.

Initially the search identified 37 candidates for consideration. The Human Resource Department narrowed that list down to 12 candidates. The Screening Committee was presented with 12 names, although 2 dropped out preceding two hour long telephone interviews. Of the remaining 10 candidates, 4 were from the Cincinnati Police Department and 6 were external candidates. Following the telephone interviews The Screening Committee by consensus has agreed to conduct personal interviews with 6 candidates (2 internal, 4 external, 3 African American, 3 Caucasian).

This search for a new police chief following the retirement of Chief Thomas Strei-

cher is the first time the City of Cincinnati has been allowed to hire a new Chief of Police from outside the police department. The Cincinnati Police Department began 209 years ago and always has hired from within the department.

Some in the community maintain the new police chief needs to come from within the police department because that person knows how the department functions and already has relationships with the current police force. Others feel strongly the new chief needs to be from outside in order to bring in fresh ideas and take the department to the next level. What's most important is the candidates with the best skill sets are considered for the job as Cincinnati's next Police Chief. This is the mission of the Police Chief Screening Committee.

632 Vine Street, Suite 606  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
Phone 513.721.4843  
Fax 513.721.4891  
Email [marcc@fuse.net](mailto:marcc@fuse.net)  
Web [marconline.com](http://marconline.com)

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

H. F. (Pat) Coyle  
*President*

Rev. Dan Weyand-Geise  
*Vice President*

Rev. Jermaine B. Armour  
*Vice-President*

Rabbi Margaret Meyer  
*Secretary*

Nancy Walters  
*Assistant Secretary*

Terynso El-Amin  
*Treasurer*

Margaret A. Fox  
*Executive Director*  
Sarah G. Geiger  
*Office Administrator*

police / community relations >>>

# After Police Use Deadly Force

## Transparency & Accountability in Follow-up Investigations

MARCC sits on the City Manager Advisory Group. This group was appointed by the City Manager two years ago. The MAG includes representatives from agencies, community members and the Police Department. The group works together to insure that the progress made by the Memorandum of Agreement and the Collaborative Agreement is maintained and continues to grow.

At the last MAG meeting the need was discussed to strengthen communication regarding procedures followed by the Police Department and the Citizens Complaint Authority during an investigation when it involves a shooting by a police officer. The following are the steps followed when this occurs. MARCC offered to disseminate this procedure, outlined by *City Manager Dohoney on May 2, 2011*. Other communities and organizations will also be getting the word out about the investigation procedure. The goal is to reduce the tension between the police and community and educate the public by clearly communicating the investigation procedure followed when a police action involves the use of deadly force.

### 1. Criminal Investigation

The Cincinnati Police Criminal Investigation Section conducts a criminal investigation into the events surrounding the shooting to determine if any criminal laws were broken by anyone. A comprehensive report, which will contain all statements taken and all investigative steps will be prepared. The findings and report will be independently reviewed by the Hamilton County Prosecutor. The entire report and recommendations will be made public. The criminal investigation process could take up to several weeks.

### 2. Internal Investigation Section

A separate unit of the City Police Internal Investigation Section responds to the scene of the shooting and monitors the criminal investigation. At the conclusion of the criminal investigation the Internal Investigation Section will investigate the appropriateness of the officers' actions on the night in question. The independent findings and recommendations are made public.

### 3. Citizen Complaint Authority

The Citizen Complaint Authority is a city agency, which is separate and independent from the Cincinnati Police Department. It reports to a Board and the City Manager. Members of the Citizen Complaint Authority respond to the scene of the shooting and monitor the ongoing criminal investigation. At the conclusion of the criminal investigation it independently reviews the shooting and the action of the Police officers and makes a separate report and findings. This report is also made public.

### 4. Firearms Discharge Board

At the conclusion of all the above investigations and reports the Firearms Discharge Board, made up of representatives of the Police Training Section, Police Inspection Section and Law Department, will review best practices and lessons learned from the shooting and make recommendations for any training changes for Police Officers that are needed. This report is also made public.