

**Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati**

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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 District (United Methodist)
- Cincinnati Islamic Center
- Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Disciples of Christ - SW Ohio
- Greek Orthodox Church of Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas
- Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
- JCRC of The Jewish Federation
- Miami Association (American Baptists)
- United Church of Christ
- Presbytery of Cincinnati
- Religious Society of Friends
- Southwest Ohio - Northeast Kentucky Division (The Salvation Army)
- Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati

- Arlene Katz  
president
- Bishop Maurice Jackson  
vice-president
- Adam Hall  
vice-president
- Rev. Larry Pigg  
secretary
- Alan Chandler  
assistant secretary
- Rev. Dan Weyand-Geise  
treasurer

Margaret A. Fox, executive director

**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 17 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 Judicatory 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 Judicatory), 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..."**

*Continued from page 1*

There was a meeting of the Friends of the Collaborative on February 5 to present a forum on the third Rand Report. Here are two links, one to the full 106 page document, the other to a 9-page summary. The full report includes responses from the ACLU, the Police Department, and the Independent Monitor.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2007/RAND\\_TR535.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR535.pdf)  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2007/RAND\\_TR535.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR535.sum.pdf)

**Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati**

**The Common Path**

Volume 3, Issue 1 — February 2008

**PUBLIC EDUCATION CONCERN**

**ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, CINCINNATIANS (and 10 other School Districts in southwest Ohio) will be asked to vote for school children**

In each of our religious traditions, God calls on God's people to care for and educate children. The future of our religions, in part, depends on raising children who can read sacred texts.

Our education was paid for by a previous generation. We pay them back by paying for the education of this generation.

It works like this:  
- In Ohio local citizens – not a government body – vote the amount of taxes needed to educate our

children  
- Most Ohio school districts must use property taxes to educate their children  
- Businesses, residents and renters: all pay property taxes, directly or indirectly  
- Ohio requires school districts to keep two separate funds: construction (paid for by bond issues), and operating expenses (paid for by levies), which includes textbooks, materials, and staff

- Cincinnati's Issue 10 is a school levy, just for operating expenses  
- In Ohio, although school expenses keep rising each year with the cost of living, by law school revenues do not rise from year to year; this causes a gap, which requires another levy.  
- That is why most Ohio school districts have to ask for new levies every 3 to 5 years (that is why 10 other school districts in Hamilton County have to ask for levies this

March); Cincinnati was able to stretch-out its last new levy to last for 7 years  
- Successful school levies benefit the whole community by maintaining property values, providing a trained labor pool, and raising up an informed citizenry.

**VOTE  
March 4th**

**COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT/JUSTICE REFORM CONCERN**

**Year 3 RAND Evaluation Report – Improving Community Police Relations**

Neighborhoods with predominantly minority populations have higher rates of:

- Reported crime
- Calls for service
- Arrests
- Use of force
- Vehicle-stop searches

Even if police are race neutral, the cause and effect of these variations will give minorities a different type of experience with the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) than whites.

A few officers disproportionately stop a high number of black drivers. Contact cards of 294 officers with the most stops were reviewed to investigate the

racial distribution. These stops were compared to stops made by other officers under similar circumstances.

**Result:**  
- 3 officers stopped significantly more blacks than expected  
- 2 officers appear to over-stop white drivers

318 videos of incidents selected at random from traffic stops with contact cards. Interracial group of trained observers analyzed the interactions.

**Result:**  
- On the average, black drivers experienced more proactive policing than white drivers (more

questions about drugs or weapons, more searches and passenger license checks, longer duration)

Differences in proactive policing are largest when officer is white  
**Result:** White officers are:  
- More likely to ask passengers for IDs (41% vs. 5% for black officers)  
- More likely to make stops for technical reasons (33% vs. 17%)

Vortex  
**Result:** Vortex officers were:  
- More likely to involve black drivers than stops made by other officers in the same place and at the same time (71% vs. 65%)

- More likely to recover contraband from white drivers than from black drivers (33% vs. 23%)

**Findings Suggest:**  
- White and black CPD officers do not always police in the same manner  
- A handful of officers may be using race in determining which drivers to stop  
- CPD resource allocation and crime control policies are disproportionately affecting black people.

*Continued on page 4*

## Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)

### Interim Report

CIRV is a strategic initiative developed by David Kennedy from John Jay Criminal Justice College in New York. The City of Cincinnati with Dr. Victor Garcia, a Surgeon at Children's Hospital, invited David Kennedy to consult on the CIRV Process in Cincinnati. In May of 2007, a grant of \$350,000 was given from the City of Cincinnati to CIRV, contracted and administered through the University of Cincinnati Policing Institute by Dr. Robin Engel.

The CIRV process brings the law enforcement community together to identify the most violent individuals, the social service community to offer support and the religious community, parents and reformed offenders to act as the moral voice of the community. Most of these ex-offenders are members of violent neighborhood groups.

Homicides in Cincinnati went from 89 to 68 (06 to 07). The implementation of the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) recent interim report, after eight months, shows an indirect impact on the reduction of homicides in Cincinnati in 2007. There were 800-1000 individuals associated with 67 known violent street groups identified in Cincinnati. Of the total number of 188 supervisees "called in" 146 attended (approximately 14.6% of total 1,000).

A Cincinnati Police Department Review of homicides from June 8, 2006 through June 6, 2007 shows 83 homicides occurred in Cincinnati. The majority of victims, 72.3% were Black males killed by firearms. These homicides involved a victim and/or offender known by law enforcement to be associated with a violent street group. This says Cincinnati's homicide problem is related to group processes. It suggests a violence reduction strategy like CIRV is an effective option to reduce homicides and potentially may impact 72% of homicides in Cincinnati.

An average profile of an individual receiving social services through CIRV is a Black male, age 28 years, felony record, single (65% have children), less than a high school education, unemployed, felony record and attended a call-in session. CIRV customers for services totaled 116 with requests for employment and education assistance being the highest. To date 20.4% have retained employment.

The City has decided to renew its grant to CIRV for a second year. These funds will be used to underwrite the costs of the street workers who are responsible for social service follow up at the request of the individual who has been called in.

### MARCC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 6-9 pm

Woodward Technical

High School

7001 Reading Road, Bond Hill,

Across from Swifton Commons

#### Special Guest Speaker:

Senator C. J. Prentiss,

Governor Appointee on the

Achievement Gap,

State of Ohio

\$12/person

Call 513.721.4843 for

Reservations

### MARCC DELEGATES

#### COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 12,

12-1:15 pm

St. Peter In Chains Cathedral

325 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street,

Across from City Hall

## Interfaith Youth Collaboration

The Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth (MCIY) is a group who are diverse by religion, race, and culture. This group comes together through the common bond of faith and serving others. The Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth was started here in Cincinnati after youth from the Cincinnati area, sponsored by an interfaith committee convened by MARCC, attended the Interfaith Youth Core Conference last October in Chicago. At the conference the youth were able to attend workshops, experience different religions, races, cultures, and form a common bond.

The Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth will host Global Youth Service Days on April 26 and 27 that will allow many area youth to participate. During this day the youth will spread out around the metro area and do service projects. Later that evening there will be a dinner held for all the youth participants where they can reflect upon and discuss their experiences.

Along with this service day we will also do service projects leading up to this event. In February we will attend Nast Trinity United Methodist Church to observe the Over the Rhine Gift Exchange Ministry. This is a ministry that shows those who may be seen as needy to others, now using their gifts and talents to serve the church and community. All interested youth in joining please contact me at MARCC, 721.4843.

Melynda Johnson  
University of Cincinnati Intern  
at MARCC

## Out of the Crossfire

The mission of OOTC is to provide survivors of gun violence with means of rebuilding their lives by linking them with community services, resources, and positive peer relationships that help heal their spirits and reshape their futures. This program at University Hospital began in September 2006 by Dr. Kenneth Davis and Dr. Jay Johannigman, funded by the Cincinnati Bar Association and University Hospital. Dr. Jennifer Williams is the Executive Director. Since its first year staff developed client files for 111 people; 52 have a service plan and received referrals and on the average 22 individuals are actively receiving OOTC services at any given time; 8 volunteer mentors and two interns provide administrative support.

## Sacred Spaces

### Artistic Expressions of Faith in Judaism, Christianity & Islam

**Presented by:** Cincinnati Art Museum, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, Skirball Museum, Cincinnati at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Taft Museum of Art, The Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University

**Sponsored by:** Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies at HUC-JIR, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Worship Office, Bridges For A Just Community, The Children of Abraham, Cincinnati District of the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, Presbytery of Cincinnati, Wilmington District of the United Methodist Church

### Sacred Space Through the Ages

Wednesday, March 12

### Synagogue: From Tent of Meeting to House of Prayer

Wednesday, March 19

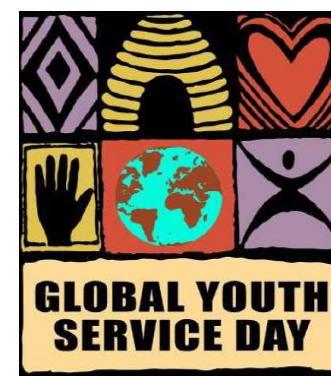
### Church: House of Worship

Wednesday, March 26

### Mosque: The Focal Point of a Muslim Community

Wednesday, April 2

See the flyer insert for more information.



## Judicatories 2008

- March 20 Muslims celebrate Milad an-Nabi, birthday of the Prophet Muhammad
- March 23 Catholic & Protestant Christians celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Christ
- April 20-26 Jews celebrate Pesach (Passover), their deliverance from Egypt
- April 27 Orthodox Christians celebrate Pascha (Easter)

## Get more money back — fast.

Don't pay to get your own money back, claim your Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Have your returns prepared and e-filed for free and receive up to \$4,716 additional cash back.

To learn more and find tax preparation sites, dial United Way 2-1-1.