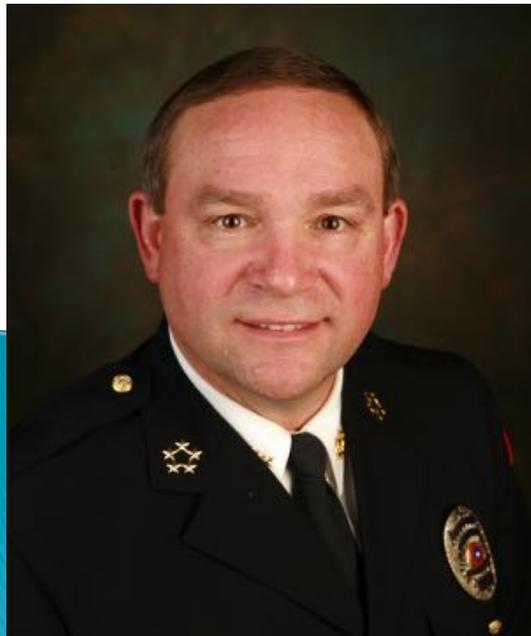


IMMIGRANT ENGAGEMENT IN MANKATO, MN



Global Network
LEADING **RUST BELT** IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

TODD A. MILLER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MANKATO MN DPS



Professional Experience

- ▶ Chief of Police Since 1976
 - ▶ Chair – IACP Community Policing Committee 2006–2014
 - ▶ Current Chair – IACP Community Policing Award Committee
 - ▶ International Instructor and Speaker on Community Policing Issues
 - ▶ Two Time Winner – IACP & CISCO Community Policing Award
- 

Professional Education

- ▶ B.A. Criminal Justice – Univ. of Wisconsin – Platteville
 - ▶ M.A. Management – Cardinal Stritch – Milwaukee, WI
 - ▶ School of Police Staff and Command
Northwestern University Traffic Institute
 - ▶ 184th Session, FBI National Academy
- 

MANKATO MINNESOTA

- ▶ MSA Population - 99,336
- ▶ Mankato City Population - 40,611
- ▶ #3 in the Nation in 2014 Forbes Best Small Places for Business and Careers
- ▶ #5 Best Small City in America 2015 by nerdwallet.com
- ▶ #19 in the Nation for Top College Towns under 250,000 by A.I.E.R.

MANKATO MINNESOTA

- ▶ 26,000 College Students in 5 Institutes of Higher Education
 - ▶ Top 40 in Number of International Students in U.S.
 - ▶ 36 Languages Spoken in K–12 School District
 - ▶ K–12 School District Ranks in top 17% Nationally
- 

MANKATO MINNESOTA

- ▶ 5,000+ Immigrants of Somali, Sudanese or Iraqi Descent
- ▶ Many immigrants came directly from refugee camps in Africa
- ▶ Almost no knowledge of American life
- ▶ Very limited resources
- ▶ Isolation a key issue
- ▶ Isolation breeds disenfranchisement

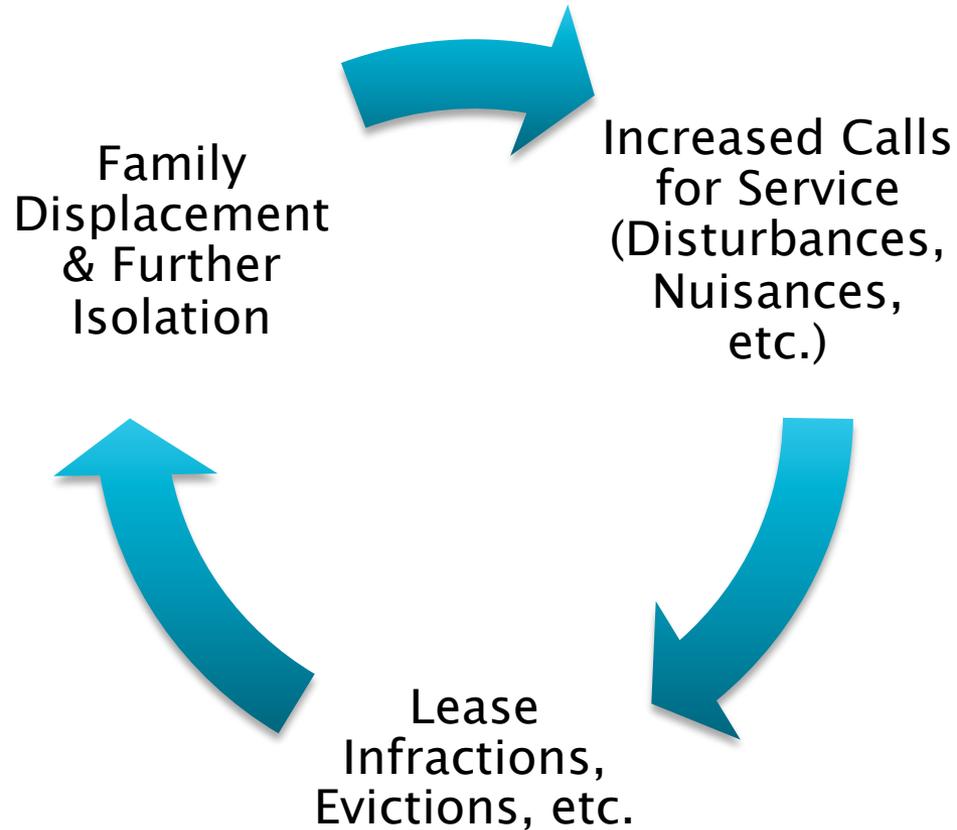
MANKATO MINNESOTA

- ▶ Al Shabaab recruitment in Minnesota
 - ▶ 30+ young Somali males recruited
 - ▶ At least 2 became suicide bombers
 - ▶ Trust is a major issue within population
 - ▶ Desire for positional contact within Somali leadership is high
- 

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS

- ▶ One Mosque – Owned by Palestinians
 - ▶ Attendees Mostly Somali
 - ▶ Concern For What Zakat Was Used For
 - ▶ Local Control and Decision Making
 - ▶ Assisted With Creation of Mankato Islamic Center
- 

VISIONS CIRCLE FOR IMMIGRANTS



Immigrant & Refugee Outreach

- ▶ East African, East European and Asian Immigrants
- ▶ Lack of Understanding of Community and Country Culture
- ▶ Problems with Youth, Housing, in Schools
- ▶ Public Safety Issues with Cooking Fires
- ▶ Isolation Issues
- ▶ Partnership with Immigrants, Housing Providers, MN Council of Churches, Department of Public Safety

TAPESTRY PROJECT

- ▶ Built on community policing philosophy of partnerships, problem solving, outreach
 - ▶ Build trust through interaction
 - ▶ Build strong community through education, mentorship, cross cultural communication
 - ▶ Fully involved the refugee community as equal stakeholder
- 

Tapestry Topics

- ▶ **Health** – Health Services in America, Differences between Urgent Care and Emergency Room, Preventative Care
 - ▶ **Parenting** – Responsibilities, Discipline, Legal Requirements
 - ▶ **Government Services** – How Local Government Works, Transit and Transportation, Volunteering, Entrepreneurial Opportunities
- 

Tapestry Topics

- ▶ **Housing** – Landlord/Tenant Issues, Being a Good Neighbor, How to Use Washing Machines, Livability Issues, Bedbugs
 - ▶ **Safety** – Food Safety and Refrigeration, Cooking Fires, Crime Prevention, Law Enforcement and Ordinances/Laws in America
- 

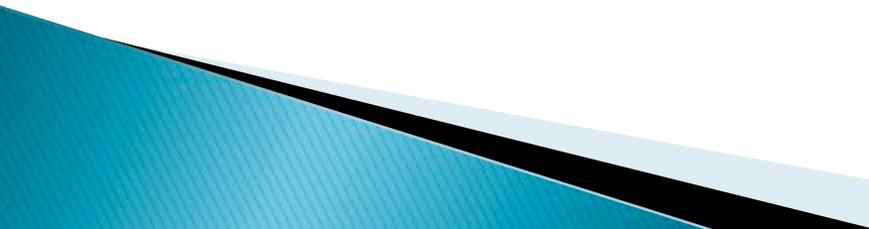
TAPESTRY PROJECT

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6Z39D-sU3E>

Tapestry Spin-Off's

- ▶ **Topics Expanded to Include Sessions or Separate Classes on:**
 - Leadership – Developing Leaders Within the Immigrant Community; Business Owner Mentors
 - Parenting Skills –
 - Education
 - Women's Issues – Including food, traditions and craft sharing
 - Employment – Preparing for Employment, Job Fairs, Resume Development, Employer Expectations, Banking systems

TAPESTRY PROJECT

- ▶ Refugee participants and community have provided information on criminal activity
 - ▶ Refugee participants and community have brought forth information on Al Shabaab recruitment or radicalization
 - ▶ Information would not have been forthcoming without trust building
- 

COPS AND BOBBERS

- ▶ Mentoring Program for At-Risk Immigrant Youth
- ▶ Run by SRO and many volunteers
- ▶ Improves trust, creates relationships, builds skills
- ▶ Provides Nutritious Meal



EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

- ▶ Somali Police Officer
- ▶ Somali Reserve Officer
- ▶ Arab Part-Time Police Officer
- ▶ Somali Female Outreach Worker
- ▶ VIPS / CERT Volunteers



THANK YOU

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