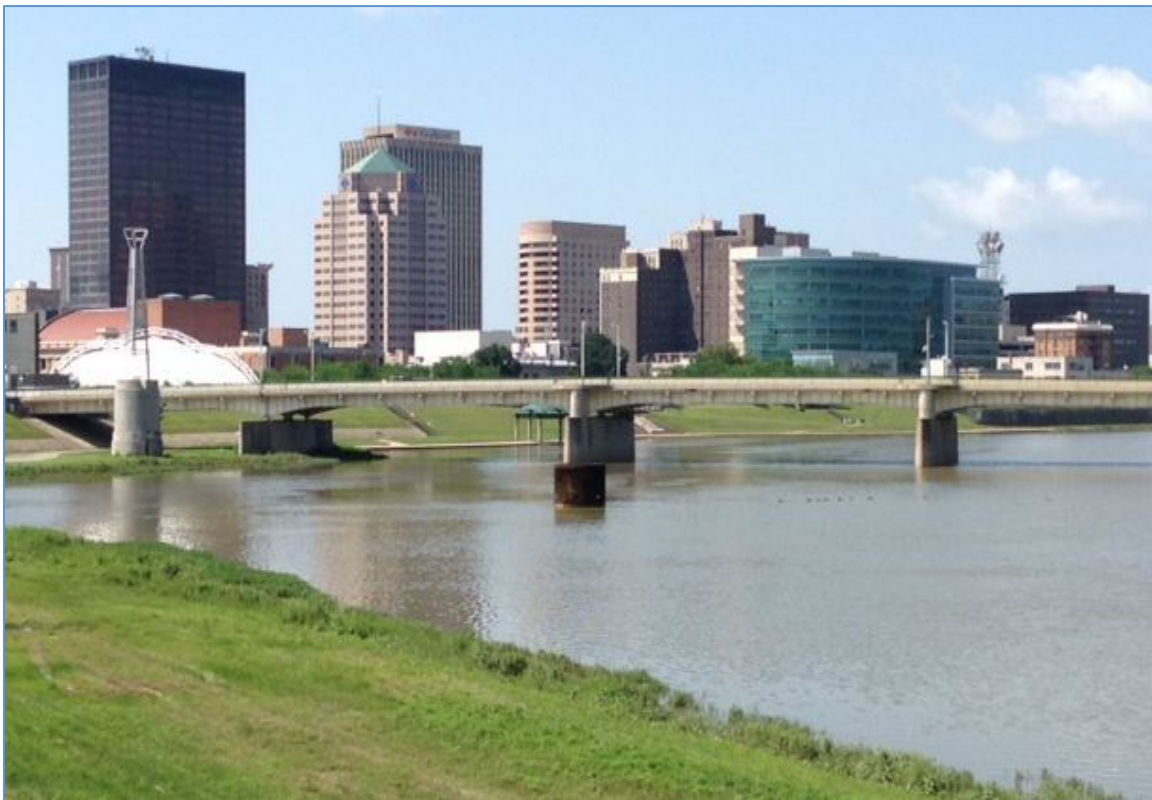




What can Dayton teach Toledo about immigration?

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By Jill Drury



Downtown Dayton, Ohio (WDTN Photo/Paul Rodzinka)

DAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) – The City of Dayton is getting national attention for its policy on immigration.

The State of Ohio is taking notice too. In fact, representatives from Toledo and Lucas County are in town today to explore the Welcome Dayton initiative.

Dayton is positioning itself as an immigrant friendly community. The visitors want to see how the Welcome Dayton plan could work in their community.

“I am excited that other cities and towns are working to become immigrant friendly. Not only do immigrants add to the vibrancy of a city, they also contribute to the economic stability,” said Melissa Bertolo, Program Coordinator.

The Toledo/Lucas County Core Committee wants to develop programs that will encourage immigrants to settle there, much like the Dayton plan.

City Commissioner Matt Joseph went to Washington, D.C. this week to promote the Dayton plan.

“There was a lot of discussion actually around some of the things we are doing in Dayton since we are doing them fairly cheaply. We are building partnerships with the school board and businesses that don’t necessarily cost the city money, we are using resources that are already there,” said Joseph.

The Dayton initiative was also mentioned in a Time magazine article recently talking about the city’s effort to become more of a melting pot community.

The Toledo group will tour various locations and programs that highlight the **Welcome Dayton** initiative.