

Timeline of events leading to the Welcome Dayton program

- September 2004 Commissioners Dean Lovelace and Matt Joseph meet with University of Dayton Professor Dr. Theo Majka, to discuss adoption of the Matricula Consular as accepted ID for city business. Earlier that summer, Dr. Majka and his supporters had requested endorsements from the city's Priority Boards for the policy change.
- April 13, 2005 Dayton City Commission votes unanimously (McLin, Lovelace, Zimmer and Joseph) to accept the Mexican and Guatemalan Matricula Consular (Consular Identification) for city business.
- January 2006 Commissioner Nan Whaley sworn into office
- May 1, 2006 Commissioners Dean Lovelace and Matt Joseph join 1,000 Dayton area residents in a rally downtown asking for immigration reform. Dayton Police provided protection for the ralliers from Neo Nazi counter-demonstrators. (Source: "Hundreds of thousands march to support immigration reform" article by Cathy Mong, May 2, 2006; Dayton Daily News)
- August 31, 2006 In response to a request from Commissioner Matt Joseph that the city examine how well it serves new immigrants, the Department of Planning and Community Development issues a memo reviewing the current status of outreach efforts, and offers a number of recommendations for improving them. (Source, Director John Gower-signed memo to City Manager Rashad Young, August 31, 2006)
- August 11, 2007 City of Dayton hosts Mexican Consular officials as they provide consular IDs to their citizens
- Early 2008 With Judge Walter Rice, County Commissioner Dan Foley, Sr. Maria Stacy, and other concerned county, city and other officials and citizens, Commissioner Joseph joins the Montgomery County Immigration Task Force
- April 16, 2008 The first representative of the Dayton Hispanic community, Rev. Francisco Pelaez-Diaz, is appointed to the Dayton Human Relations Council by unanimous vote of the Commission (McLin, Lovelace, Williams, Joseph and Whaley). His appointment was part of a concerted Commission effort to request HRC attention on issues concerning more races and ethnicities.
- May 2008 Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl put into place Executive Order No 12-2008 Physical Arrests of Traffic Violators, which specifies when arrests should or should not be made in the case of a person stopped who has no driver's license. Chief Biehl noted that the number of deportations has greatly decreased, presumably as a result of this policy. (Source: Meeting Notes, Montgomery County Immigration Council, June 16, 2008 meeting)

August 2009	Commissioner Matt Joseph discusses the high priority he places on better welcoming immigrants with Mr. Tim Riordan, who will be appointed City Manager in September, 2009
September 2009	September 2009 through August 2010: The Board of the Human Relations Council (HRC) initiates and carries out a Racial Equity Assessment of discrimination in housing within the city of Dayton against immigrants. The assessment finds evidence of discrimination.
January 2010	Mayor Gary Leitzell is sworn into office
March 20, 2010	Commissioner Joseph joins the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Greater Dayton Churches, and Catholic Social Action in a march downtown calling for immigration reform
June 17, 2010	Mayor Leitzell and City Manager Tim Riordan meet with leaders of the Ahiska Turkish Community, and discuss ways Dayton can assist in their resettlement and integration
July 24, 2010	City of Dayton hosts Mexican Consular officials as they provide consular IDs to their citizens. Montgomery County and Dayton City Commissioners meet with Mexican officials.
September 2010	City Manager Tim Riordan, then-HRC Director Tom Wahlrab, Commissioner Joey Williams and Commissioner Matt Joseph discuss starting an Immigrant Friendly City initiative.
February 2011	The City of Dayton creates a Core Team consisting of City staff from three Departments and one HRC board member. The Team writes an initial purpose statement and plan design, which will be used to inform local officials and citizens about the Immigrant Friendly City initiative and solicit their support and commitment.
Feb. to April 2011	The Core Team holds four open conversations with local people interested and or involved in immigrant issues. From the attendees, they ask for a commitment of 90 days to develop goals and objectives for a three-year plan, they developed a "Mapping Strategy," then divide the group into five committees: a) Social Services and Health Services; b) Local Government and Justice System; c) Business and Economic Development; d) Banks and Financial Institutions; and, e) Community Culture, Arts and Education.
June 22, 2011	The committee completes final reports and presents them to the City Commission and City Manager

- August 18, 2011 A group of Core Team members and City staff brainstorm options for a permanent name for the initiative. "Welcome Dayton" was proposed and chosen, following review by additional constituents.
- October 5, 2011 The City Commission votes unanimously to adopt the Welcome Dayton document (Leitzell, Lovelace, Joseph and Whaley).
- April 25, 2012 The City of Dayton signs an agreement with the Ahiska Turkish Community to sell them, with a forgivable mortgage, the former Bomberger Center to use as a community center.