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CCR Developing Citizenship Cincinnati

CCR's new initiative, Citizenship Cincinnati, is both a process and a paradigm shift. The Citizenship Cincinnati process is designed to convene stakeholders on a particular issue and help reframe the dialogue in a way that gets to underlying issues and root causes.

The paradigm shift is that the Citizenship Cincinnati process replaces the archaic but ubiquitous public hearing model of citizen participation.

Citizenship Cincinnati has evolved out of CCR's 2007 Board retreat where board members passionately advocated for CCR to find a new way to get citizens re-engaged into civic discourse.

CCR is constantly hearing of citizen frustration with current engagement techniques that seem to focus on informing citizens rather

than involving them.

There is a hunger from those who care deeply about our region to develop a two-way conversation with decision-makers where the public receives feedback about how their input influenced decisions or where incorporated into alternatives being considered for action.



CCR is planning to test the Citizenship Cincinnati process this fall. Stayed tuned for more details.

Agenda 360

Support for local government cooperation is getting a timely boost by Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Agenda 360 project. Modeled after Northern Kentucky's Vision 2015 process, Agenda 360 aims to develop a shared regional agenda for the four Ohio counties in Greater Cincinnati.

The project is chaired by Ellen van der Horst, President of the Cincinnati USA Regional



Chamber; Kevin Ghassomian, an attorney with Greenbaum, Doll & McDonald; and Dr. Myrtis Powell, retired from Miami University. These chairs plus a Leadership Team that includes many of the important civic organizations in our community and an Advisory Council stocked with the region's corporate leaders add significant power to Agenda 360.

Of special interest to CCR is the Effective Governance Action Team. One of five teams that are helping to form the civic agenda, the Effective Governance team is chaired by Louise Hughes, Government Affairs with Procter & Gamble, Bobby Maly

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Agenda 360

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with the Model Group and Allen Zaring IV with Zarfund.

The Effective Governance Team has taken a keen interest in the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project, the initiative organized by the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and the Cincinnati Business Committee. All three co-chairs attended the August 24th meeting of the Project. Louise Hughes made a point of saying that collaborative governance was likely to be one of the major initiatives coming from the Effective Governance Team.

Ohio's Universities Get On Collaborative Bandwagon

The *Business Courier* recently reported that Ohio's 13 four-year and 23 two-year universities and colleges are entering into joint ventures to realize economies of scale and reduce costs.

The effort is being housed at the Inter-University Council. The Council estimates that joint purchasing agreements saved \$66 million in 2005-2006 and that the amount of savings could double within three years.

Opportunities for cost-savings include joint purchasing of pharmaceuticals to save money on employee health plans and consolidating or out-sourcing administrative functions such as payroll.

Butler County Ripe for Cooperative Efforts

Recent news from Butler County may indicate that the stars are aligning for cooperative efforts between local governments.

Butler County already has a track record of local government cooperation with its Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC). Local governments have used the LUCC to present unified fronts at the OKI and ODOT funding tables. The Butler Regional Highway and the proposed I-75 interchange in Liberty Township are just two concrete examples of the power of working together.

The forces of fiscal stress and economies of scale that are pushing Hamilton County governments toward more cooperative efforts now may be creating the same incentives for Butler County jurisdictions to share more.

The City of Hamilton showed signs of fiscal stress this year when new levies for swimming pools and street improvements were proposed. Like many older cities, the City of Hamilton has more road needs (\$60 million) than revenue (\$2 million annually).

Discussions about a countywide public-safety radio system helped identify an opportunity to plug some of these fiscal cracks. County Commission President Greg Jolivet said that dispatch consolidation could save \$1.5 million in initial equipment costs alone. There are currently nine dispatch centers in Butler County compared to four in Hamilton County.

Wilder Foundation Funds Shared Services Work

Recently CCR met with the board of the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation to submit a request for \$21,000 to help complete the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project (GCEP)'s *Joint Shared Services Assessment* and to implement its findings. The Wilder Board agreed to fund this grant request over two years.

The GCEP, organized by County Commissioner Pat DeWine and City of Cincinnati Councilperson Chris Bortz, is tasked with helping local jurisdictions examine ways to improve service-delivery and control costs through cross-jurisdictional cooperation and possible service consolidations. The mission of the GCEP directly correlates with CCR's *Responding to Cincinnati Metropatterns* report's Governance Reform strategy which states "encourage more voluntary cooperation among local governments."

Management Partners, led by Jerry Newfarmer, is scheduled to complete the *Joint Shared Services Assessment* this Fall. The *Assessment* will identify several pilot projects for implementation. CCR will apply the Wilder Foundation money to help citizens get involved in making the pilot projects happen.

CCR appreciates the support that the Wilder Foundation has provided during the earlier phases of the *Cincinnati Metropatterns* project. The Foundation's continued support is critical to the implementation of our citizen-based strategies to improve our region.

Director's Corner - **Steve Johns, CCR Director**

Driven by Projections

How many people will Hamilton County have in 2030? Go ahead take a guess. Twenty-three years from now its tough for any of us to know what the future will be like. As I think back twenty-three years, I am pretty sure I wouldn't have been able to predict what today looks like.



As reported in the Fall 2006 edition of this newsletter, in 1997 the State of Ohio projected that Hamilton County would have 916,300 people. Six years later the 2030 projection had been revised to 730,570. Perhaps at this rate, the state will eventually predict no one will be living in Hamilton County. Turn the lights out if you are the last one to leave!

These population projections are being used to develop a transportation plan for our future. Yes, contain your excitement, the update of OKI's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is upon us again (if you like acronyms you'll love this!).

Every four years OKI as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Greater Cincinnati updates the LRTP to conform to changing federal requirements, completed projects, and new and expanded planning priorities. The LRTP is one of two signature documents for OKI. To get federal dollars (which can be used for up to 80% of the project cost) a transportation project must be listed in the LRTP and the short-range document which is called the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Meet Darin Vilano

Darin Vilano joined the CCR Board in January of 2007. Darin grew up in Martins Ferry, Ohio, where he and his two siblings were raised by a single mother. He followed a calling into the U.S. Navy Reserves, where he worked as an aviation electrician.



At 22, he started college at the University of Pittsburgh. He held two to three jobs at a time to put himself through, including a summer internship with UPS that turned into a full-time position his senior year. He graduated in 2000 with a finance degree.

After graduation, Vilano took a job with the Ford Motor

Places Projected to lose 25% of Households by 2030

City of Cheviot	City of Mt. Healthy
City of Reading	City of North College Hill
City of St. Bernard	City of Norwood
City of Deer Park	City of Silverton
Finneytown	Rossmoyne
Pleasant Ridge	Walnut Hills
Village of Fairfax	Mt. Auburn

Whew! So here is where you come in. CCR has been working with OKI to develop an alternate set of projections that is based on a more positive vision for the region. See, the theory is that if more people stay in Hamilton County, there will be less need to build new and wider roads at the edge of the region. Not only does this save us money but it also preserves choice—some people really do like dense communities!

OKI is hosting a series of open houses in September to solicit comment on the demographic projections that are the basis for determining where to spend billions of dollars of transportation infrastructure. I encourage you to attend to express your support for a positive vision for all communities in our region.

Monday September 17—Cintas Center Xavier University
Monday, September 24—Crestview Hills City Building
Tuesday, September 25—Butler Tech Public Safety Building
Wednesday, September 26—Union Township Civic Center

All meetings open-house-style from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Go to www.oki.org for more info

Company in Michigan, where he worked for three years in its financial leadership program as an analyst and then went on for his MBA at Notre Dame.

The opportunity to join an elite group in Western & Southern's Executive Leadership Program brought Darin to Cincinnati. The Mount Adams resident quickly jumped into community involvement.

In addition to CCR, Darin is a member of C-Change, Cincinnati Chamber USA's Young Professional (YP) leadership program; the Downtown Resident's Council; and Habitat for Humanity. He is also active in YP groups affiliated with The Carnegie, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and UC's College Conservatory of Music.

Portions of article courtesy of *The Business Courier*



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Happenings

**Cincinnati Preservation Association’s
Fall Forum featuring
Robert Liberty, Portland Metro Council
Friday October 19th, Noon
Hilton Netherland Plaza Hall of Mirrors
More info at 513-721-4506 or
info@cincinnati-preservation.org**

**Don’t Forget to Vote! - For Supervisors of
the Hamilton County Soil and Water Con-
servation District . Ballots available at
www.hcswcd.org/Request%20for%20ballot.**

You are invited

**OKI Long Range Trans. Plan Open House
Monday September 17th, 4:00-7:00
Cintas Center**

**CCR Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 18th, 5:30-6:30
Rookwood Tower, 5th Floor**

**Hamilton County Justice System Forum
Wednesday, October 3rd 7:00-8:00 p.m.
WCET Studios**

Citizens for Civic Renewal Membership Form

Join CCR Today! Your membership will keep you informed; CCR newsletters and forums featuring national experts are just two of the ways in which CCR members enhance their awareness of issues of regional importance. Aggregate your voice—As a member of CCR, you join hundreds of others so that when we get the ear of public officials, your voice is heard. Support our efforts; your membership dues augment our work and match the support of local foundations and funders.

_____ Individual \$25 _____ Household \$50 _____ Student \$5

Please mail to:

Citizens for Civic Renewal
3805 Edwards Road #549
Cincinnati, OH 45209

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