

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING MAYORS

TAKING HEART: IMAM ASAD ZAMAN AND REVEREND CURTISS DEYOUNG 2020 ELECTION – SUPPORT, SECURITY, AND VOTER TURNOUT EXPECTATIONS RCM 2020 PRIORITIES

A FOND FAREWELL TO MAYOR GENE WINSTEAD AND MAYOR JERRY FAUST:

Mayor Jim Hovland, Caren Dewar, and former St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman all shared remarks thanking Mayor Gene Winstead and Mayor Jerry Faust for their remarkable leadership and service in their cities and within the RCM!



Mayor Gene Winstead, City of Bloomington. Gene has served in the City of Bloomington for over 35 years!

Mayor Jerry Faust, City of Saint Anthony Village. Jerry has served as the Mayor of City of Saint Anthony Village for the last 15 years!

Mayor Winstead and Mayor Faust have enthusiastically shared the value they have experienced with the RCM and have invited their incoming mayors to also join the RCM. Both Mayor Tim Busse and Mayor Randy Stille are excited to join this cohort!

- Gene shared that we are a region of great municipalities, we are all in this together and that everyone here has learned from each other at the RCM. The RCM has helped solidify our region as being one of the best and with the new incoming mayors and the RCM, the region is in good hands!
- Jerry shared that the RCM has helped the State of Minnesota and League of MN cities. The RCM has given him the opportunity to share in non-partisan way. It is not a matter of if, but when anybody could face issues in their communities and the RCM is a place to discuss and share resources and build relationships.

TAKING HEART

Imam Asad Zaman, Executive Director, Muslim American Society of MN
Reverend Curtiss DeYoung, CEO, MN Council of Churches

LINK TO TAKING HEART INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

- Overview of the [Muslim American Society of Minnesota \(MAS MN\)](#):
 - MAS MN is an Islamic revival and reform movement that uplifts the individual, the family, and the society. MAS MN operates three Masjids (Islamic Centers) in Minnesota.
 - There are a total of 76 mosques in Minnesota, and this number is growing. For the cities that don't currently have a mosque – they will probably see a mosque looking to be created in the next 5-10 years.
 - MAS MN provides religious programming and youth programs and organizes the annual MAS Minnesota Convention.

- MAS MN is also much more than a religious organization; it is a community organization committed to making Minnesota a better place for all Minnesotans. MAS MN provides social services such as clinic and food shelves. It is a leader in interfaith dialogue, as co-organizer the Taking Heart Ramadan Iftar Open House program and the Rabbi Imam Round Table.
- MAS MN engages the Muslim community in public policy and government affairs. It organizes the annual Muslim Day at the Capitol.
- Overview of the [Minnesota Council of Churches \(MCC\)](#):
 - The Minnesota Council of Churches is a statewide organization that serves as a partner in living out your faith in your community. Strong communities are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values.
 - MCC connects with:
 - Christians, churches, religious leaders, and denominations.
 - People of other faiths, refugees, and those in need.
 - The public life of Minnesota: legislators, businesses, foundations, and government

TAKING HEART:

- Taking Heart is a program through MCC and the MAS MN where mosques and Islamic Community Centers welcome non-Muslim neighbors for the traditional evening Iftar meal, which breaks the fast of Ramadan. Taking Heart started in 2005. In 2017, more than 1400 people attended the free Iftar dinners.
- Ramadan starts on Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 at sundown lasting 30 days and ending at sundown on Saturday, May 23, 2020.
- Registration to attend a Taking Heart Iftar Dinner is coordinated through MN Council of Churches.
- People can be fearful of what they don't know and don't understand. Interaction not facts are what make a difference. The change happens over table conversation. It does not matter if they talk about theology, as long as they talk to each other, they begin to care for each other.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, Reverend Curtiss DeYoung:

[LINK TO STAR TRIBUNE ARTICLE](#)

- President Trump signed an executive order in September that sets national refugee resettlement cap at 18,000 people for the 2020 fiscal year, which is the lowest number ever.
- Each governor must officially OPT IN for a state to be able to resettle refugees. Then each county must OPT IN. Some cities may need to OPT IN depending on how each county is interpreting the order.
- The OPT IN process requires a physical letter be sent to the state and from there a copy of each letter is sent to every refugee resettlement organization.
- The OPT IN process is completely new and needs to happen by the end of January 31st, 2020.
- There are 9 national agencies, 5 of which are located in Minnesota.
- These 9 refugee resettlement organizations then submit their placement strategies proposals to the state department by January 31st, 2020.
- Reverend Curtiss DeYoung shared that counties are being notified by resettlement agencies. He also shared the following resources with the RCM:
 - [Template invitation letter sent from resettlement agencies to county administrators.](#)
 - [Info sheet on the Executive Order](#)
 - [DHS Info sheet sent to counties \(through Association of Minnesota Counties\) – “Refugee Resettlement in Minnesota”](#)
- One of the 2020 RCM Priorities is to foster inclusive cities.
- Immigrants and refugees are an important workforce in Minnesota.
- Gov. Tim Walz has opted in to continue to consent to refugee resettlement.

2020 ELECTION - SUPPORT, SECURITY, VOTER TURN OUT EXPECTATIONS:

Mayor Mike Maguire shared 2020 Election information presented by Secretary of State Steve Simon during an MLC meeting. Primary points:

- Precinct caucuses will be held on **February 25, 2020**
- Presidential nomination primary will take place on **March 3, 2020**.
- [Link to Secretary of State webpage](#): “**How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?** Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 17, 2020). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.”
- “**Will other people know which party’s ballot I request?** A voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. *However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party.* How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.”
- Having the 4 major political parties being notified of which party each voter selected becomes a concern for city staff and city officials that wish to remain non-partisan.
- Secretary of State Steve Simon is trying to change this at the legislature prior to the primaries, however the timeline is tight.
- Election Security – it is known that Russia looked that Minnesota system.
- Voter Turnout – Minnesota has been number one in voter turn out in the past and we want to keep it that way.

RCM 2020 PRIORITIES:

[LINK TO 2020 RCM PRIORITIES](#)

Caren Dewar presented the 2020 RCM priorities. After discussion, the RCM 2020 priorities were revised.

ATTENDANCE

MAYORS

James Hovland	City of Edina (co-chair)
Mike Maguire	City of Eagan (co-chair)
Doug Anderson	City of Lakeville
Kirt Briggs	City of Prior Lake
Anne Burt	City of Woodbury
Tim Busse	City of Bloomington
Jerry Faust	City of Saint Anthony Village
Courtney Johnson	City of Carver
Marvin Johnson	City of Independence
John Keis	City of Little Canada
Chris Lund	City of Hamburg
Tim McNeil	City of Dayton
Kim Norton	City of Rochester (Listened in on phone call)
Maria Regan Gonzalez	City of Richfield
Randy Stille	City of Saint Anthony Village
Brad Wiersum	City of Minnetonka
Ken Willcox	City of Wayzata
Gene Winstead	City of Bloomington

GUESTS

John Breitingner, Cushman & Wakefield/ULI MN; Mark Casey, City of Saint Anthony Village; Kevin Clarke, HKGi, Chris Coleman, Habitat for Humanity; Heather Corcoran, League of MN Cities; Reverend Curtiss DeYoung, MN Council of Churches, Nate Fowler, Office of U.S. Representative Angie Craig; Kevin Frazell, Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association; Chris Heineman, City of Little Canada; Andrea Kajer, Comcast; Mara Klecker, Star Tribune; Sandra Krebsbach, American Technical Education Association; Brad Larson, City of Savage; Terry Schneider, Citizens League; Dave Unmacht, League of MN Cities; Jamie Verbrugge, City of Bloomington; ThaoMee Xiong, City of Saint Paul, Office of Mayor Carter; Megan Yerks, City of Eden Prairie; Imam Asad Zaman, Muslim American Society of MN

ULI MINNESOTA

Caren Dewar, Cathy Bennett, Rachel Keenan

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Seattle Room at Dorsey & Whitney, 50 South 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN