

A Special Meeting of the Global Troy Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2017 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Roll Call

Present: Lisa Bica-Grodsky
MiVida Burrus
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Awni Fakhoury
Syeda Nasiha Mohideen
Daniela Natcheva
Rouba Samman
Mayor Dane Slater
Ricky Young (arrived at 6:20 PM)
Yudong Zhou (left at 6:20 PM)

Absent: Samir Bagri
Venkatesan Balaraman
Richard Coon

Also present: Maggie Hughes
Eleanor Yoon

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Proposed Letter to City Council Regarding the Executive Order

The special meeting was called by Mayor Dane Slater to discuss the impact of the January 27, 2017 Executive Order on the Troy Community. The committee members agreed that while the Global Troy Advisory Committee and Troy City Council should not get involved in national politics or policies, the executive order is having profound effects on Troy residents and that the committee will send a letter to Troy City Council.

Mr. Yudong Zhou left at 6:20 PM.

Mr. Ricky Young arrived at 6:20 PM.

Resolution # GT – 2017-02-03

Moved by: Fakhoury
Seconded by: Chamberlain-Creanga

RESOLVED, that the Global Troy Advisory Committee APPROVE the attached Statement Regarding Recent Executive Order and AUTHORIZE the statement to be presented to Troy City Council at the February 6, 2017 Troy City Council Meeting.

Yeas: - 8 -
Nays: None
Absent: - 4 -

Other Business
None

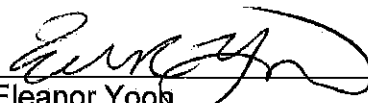
Public Comment
None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.



Dane Slater,
Chair



Eleanor Yoon,
Recording Secretary



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

Global Troy Advisory Committee
248.524.3330

Statement Regarding Recent Executive Order

February 2, 2017

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

The recent executive order imposing restrictions on immigration and refugee travel has provoked anxiety and uncertainty across the nation. We, the members of the Global Troy Advisory Committee (hereinafter Global Troy), write this letter to share with you our thoughts and concerns regarding this action and its impact on the diverse communities of Troy.

The City of Troy prides itself on being one of the most diverse cities in the State of Michigan. Under your guidance, Global Troy was established with the intention to come together to make our community more welcoming and inclusive. In this time of unsettling change, we join to reflect upon the core values we firmly believe this Troy community holds. These values, deeply rooted within us, define who we are and set us apart in the region.

We are a community of acceptance and tolerance. With more than 28% of our residents foreign-born, Troy is home to rich immigrant cultures and vibrant ethnic neighborhoods. Businesses from 23 different countries settle in Troy for all the opportunities it provides and our economy continues to prosper each year. Our children, while speaking more than 73 different languages at home, come together to make Troy School District one of the best in the state.

We are a community of integrity and compassion. When a tragedy fell upon us and left a deep scar in the Indian-American community, we mourned together and rallied around one another. With open arms we welcomed the highest number of Syrian refugees in all of Michigan last year. Our community organizations and schools work tirelessly to embrace the most vulnerable.

However, as the implications of the executive order began to unfold on January 27th, we witnessed its grave and distressing impact. Our friends and neighbors were displaced and their families indefinitely separated. A high school student in Troy does not know when he will see his Syrian-born mother again, who is visiting his ill grandmother back home. Committee Member Rouba Samman, who too hails from Syria, is uncertain whether her parents will visit her Troy home again and enjoy the freedom of spending precious time with their children and grandchildren. These stories are not unique, but countless.

The executive order is titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." It is in practice having deleterious and traumatizing effects on innocent families in our communities. We reject the dangerous legitimization of the idea that conflates members of the Islamic faith with those prone to acts of terrorism. This threatens the very values that are the bedrocks of Troy and we are deeply concerned about further ramifications the order may cause.



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Global Troy will work diligently with the city government, community organizations, faith groups, and ethnic communities to continue its efforts in making Troy a more welcoming, inclusive, and culturally competent community. In these times of change, we urge you to join us in our efforts. We ask that you continue your endeavor to lead our city by example. We hope you will not be silent on issues that threaten our deepest values. We must help protect and foster our diversity. Let us stand together with our families and neighbors because we all believe that a strong community is one that embraces diversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane Slater", written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR DANE SLATER
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awni Fakhoury", written over a horizontal line.

AWNI FAKHOURY
Committee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bica-Grodsky", written over a horizontal line.

LISA BICA-GRODSKY
Committee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Syeda Nasuha Mohideen", written over a horizontal line.

SYEDA NASIHA MOHIDEEN
Committee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mivida Burrus", written over a horizontal line.

MIVIDA BURRUS
Committee Member

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DANIELA NATCHEVA
Committee Member

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REBECCA A. CHAMBERLAIN-CREANGA
Committee Member

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ROUBA SAMMAN
Committee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Coon", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD COON
Committee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Young", written over a horizontal line.

RICKY YOUNG
Student Representative