



## Legislation Details (With Text)

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**Title:** To honor & recognize US Together, Inc. for their extraordinary work with Immigrants & Refugees in Central Ohio.

**Sponsors:** Hearcel Craig, Zach M. Klein, A. Troy Miller, Michelle M. Mills, Eileen Paley, Priscilla Tyson, Andrew Ginther

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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
5/2/2012	1	CITY CLERK	Attest	
5/1/2012	1	MAYOR	Signed	
4/30/2012	1	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Signed	
4/30/2012	1	Columbus City Council	Adopted	Pass

To honor & recognize US Together, Inc. for their extraordinary work with Immigrants & Refugees in Central Ohio.

**WHEREAS**, US Together, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2003 as a response to the needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, its' mission is to coordinate, organize, and initiate services to immigrants and refugees through education, advocacy, support services, and networking opportunities to strengthen the communities in which they live; and

**WHEREAS**, US Together, Inc. is a unique agency in that it was formed as a mutual assistance association that is run by refugees, exemplifying refugees helping other refugees; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbus began partnering with US Together, Inc. in 2005 via the New Americans Initiative Program, housed in the Community Relations Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the New American Initiative's goal is to help our immigrant and refugee communities become productive and responsible residents in the City of Columbus; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 70 immigrants and refugees participated in Citizenship and Integration program in 2011 have participated in this collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization is not only a benefit in itself, but also a mechanism to foster immigrant integration. Naturalization provides civic and economic opportunities for new citizens, and strengthens our community. Through preparation for naturalization, participants gain the tools to become successful citizens - ready to exercise their rights and meet their responsibilities as United States Citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration between the city government and Citizenship and Integration program to promote integration and increase new citizens participation in local government is the best practice, and is a pilot program to be served as a national model; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

That this Council does hereby celebrate and applaud the efforts of US Together, Inc., for helping immigrant and refugee families become healthy, happy, productive residents of our great city.