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**PRESENTED BY:**

Goshen Community Relations Commission



**COMMUNITY  
IMMIGRATION FORUM**  
JUNE 23, 2011 • GOSHEN HIGH SCHOOL

**PRESENTED BY**

City of Goshen Community Relations Commission

# CITY OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION



## **ABOUT THE CRC:**

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) is made up of nine volunteer residents appointed by Goshen City Council and the Mayor to focus on the “people issues” of our community. We are mothers, fathers, business people, educators, elected officials, white- and blue-collar workers, conservatives and liberals and immigrants and native-born Americans who share the vision of a unified, thriving city.

The CRC was created by Ordinance 4201, “An Ordinance Creating the Goshen Community Relations Commission and Prescribing the Powers and Duties of the Commission,” adopted by the Common Council on April 13, 2004. Goshen was the 23rd Indiana city to establish a human/community relations commission.

## **MISSION:**

Our mission is to foster a climate of positive community relationships and nondiscrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment, and access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property.

## **MEMBERS:**

Richard Aguirre, Julia Gautsche, Chic Lantz, Joe Liechty, Miguel Millan, Glenn Null, Laura Oyer, Sreekala Rajagopalan, George Smucker

## **TELEPHONE:**

(574) 537-3839

## **ON THE WEB:**

[www.ci.goshen.in.us/1039536.html](http://www.ci.goshen.in.us/1039536.html)

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

As a Community Relations Commission, and as individuals, we celebrate the community that is Goshen. We believe in Goshen, which is why we have made it our home. We also want Goshen to be a place of positive community relations in which all residents can enjoy equality as well as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

At the same time, we recognize that our community is experiencing challenging times and we have observed significant demographic, social and economic changes over the past 10 years. All of us, regardless of our backgrounds, are facing realities that we have never encountered before. During times such as this it is important to name and claim basic principles that remind us who we are and what we aspire to be so that all people can lead lives of dignity and peace. We view this as an important step toward achieving positive community relations.

Therefore, in recognition of our similarities and differences, both within the Commission and the broader Goshen community, the CRC declares its commitment to the following principles:

**Respect for each other and respect for each other's rights**

**Open communication and engagement**

**Honesty**

**A safe community**

**Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences**

**Tolerance of differences**

**Support for equality and freedom from discrimination**

As the Community Relations Commission, these are the principles we aspire to be known for. We encourage others to embrace these same aspirations. While we recognize that it is important to actively pursue these principles, we will be mindful of the need to review, adjust and create a new set of principles from time to time.

*—Adopted, Dec. 8, 2009*

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

## Welcome

Vince Turner

## Introduction of sponsors

Richard R. Aguirre

*Member, Community Relations Commission*

## Keynote presentation

Dr. Steven M. Nolt

## Response

Bob Schrameyer

## Response

Saulo Padilla

## Written questions from the audience in response to presentations

## Audience questions and comments on local, state and federal immigration issues

## Closing remarks and an invitation for future engagement

Joe Liechty

*Chair, Community Relations Commission*

# ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Steven M. Nolt** is a professor and chair of the History Department at Goshen College. He has a bachelor's degree from Goshen College, a master's degree in theological studies from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Notre Dame. The author or co-author of 10 books, he has conducted extensive research on U.S. immigration and teaches a class on "American Immigration and Ethnic History."



**Bob Schrameyer** is the director and co-founder of Citizens for Immigration Law Enforcement (CILE) of Goshen. Born in Sheboygan, Wis., he has a bachelor's degree from Lakeland College and retired after 30 years in the transportation industry. He has lived in Goshen since 1977, volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Elkhart County and the Boys & Girls Club and attends First English Lutheran Church.



**Saulo Padilla** is the director of the Office on Immigration Education for Mennonite Central Committee. He was born and lived in Guatemala for the first 15 years of his life and immigrated with his mother and siblings to Canada in 1986, to reunite with his father, who left Guatemala as a political refugee in 1980. He eventually became a Canadian citizen, and in 2001 moved to Goshen. He has a bachelor's degree from Goshen College and a master's degree from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.



## ABOUT OUR MODERATOR

Vince Turner is vice president and client relationship manager at Mutual Bank. A former sportswriter for the *Elkhart Truth* and sports director for WTRC Radio, he has been involved in a wide range of community organizations, including the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, the Boys & Girls Club and the Goshen Noon Kiwanis.

## WHAT'S NEXT: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Do you want to learn more and to help other Goshen residents find common ground on illegal immigration? If so, please sign up to participate in follow-up roundtable discussions, which are being planned by the Community Relations Commission.

The discussions would be gatherings of individuals (10-15 for each roundtable). People on all sides of the issue, including representatives of business, labor, education, health care, law enforcement, social services, churches, immigration advocates (on both sides) and much more, would join for respectful conversations.

Over the course of several hours, participants would exchange viewpoints in an attempt to identify areas of agreement and disagreement as well as to reach consensus on the top areas of shared concerns and issues requiring the attention of Congress and the Indiana Legislature. Feedback collected during the roundtable discussions would be shared with President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitch Daniels.

If you are interested in learning more or participating, please provide your name and your phone number or email address before you leave tonight or call (574) 537-3839 and leave a message with your information.

## ABOUT TONIGHT'S COMMUNITY FORUM:

Welcome to all!

Over the past four years, illegal immigration has become a contentious local issue. Goshen residents have debated the impact of illegal immigrants on crime, education, employment, healthcare, housing, social services and our quality of life. Similar debates this year in the Indiana Legislature culminated in the passage of bills — signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels — denying in-state tuition at state-supported universities to illegal immigrants and revoking some tax credits for businesses that hire illegal immigrants.

Tonight, the Community Relations Commission (CRC) hopes to shed light on this important issue. We will hear three distinct perspectives and then invite audience members to ask questions and offer opinions. We hope all who speak here tonight will do so with civility and mutual respect.

Sponsoring this forum is consistent with the CRC's mission of fostering "a climate of positive community relationships and nondiscrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment, and access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property." We also believe it is the CRC's responsibility to facilitate communication and to create opportunities for community dialogue.

Thanks for joining us this evening. And thanks to our generous sponsors: the *Elkhart Truth*, the Goshen City Council, the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Goshen College, the Goshen Ministerial Association, the *Goshen News*, Goshen Community Schools and Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital.

—Richard R. Aguirre,  
*Member, Community Relations Commission*