

# Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://ijpcincinnati.org/featured/summer-2017-newsletter/>

### Newsletters

Click the photo read our Summer 2017 newsletter. Be sure to get caught up on the updates around the death penalty that ended in the execution of Ronald Phillips in July, read about national immigration policy updates, be inspired by our vision for a Nonviolent Cincinnati (and sign up to be part of the coalition), and mark your calendar for our September 20th event where we host John Dear and more.

Summer 2017



# Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

### Taking a Life is Not Justice

Executions have started again in Ohio and we are set to become the execution capital of the Midwest, maybe even the country. We're in the business of killing people again. But after not having an execution in more than 3 years, why now?

*How Did We Get Here?*

- Ohio has not executed anybody since Dennis McGuire's botched execution in January 2014. McGuire's execution was the first for Ohio to test out a new combination of drugs.
- After the execution, US District Judge Gregory Frost issued a temporary moratorium to allow a new injection protocol to be adopted and implemented.
- In the last 3.5 years, 9 states carried out 94 executions.
- In April 2014, the Joint Task Force Commission released a report that made 56 recommendations to Ohio's capital punishment system. They found in 93% of the cases, Ohio's death penalty was enacted unfairly or unjustly.
- Since January 2014, the moratorium has been officially extended as well as unofficially extended due to inability to access the drugs required for lethal injection.
- On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a previous decision and ruled in favor of the state with an 8-6 vote in a case from the inmates about the constitutionality of the drugs.
- With this ruling, the state was given the go-ahead to resume executions beginning with that of Ronald Phillips on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The approved death injection cocktail includes the drugs midazolam, which puts the inmate to sleep; rocuronium bromide, which paralyzes the inmate; and potassium chloride, which stops the heart.
- During the month after the ruling, IJPC and partners across the state mobilized constituents to contact Governor John Kasich to stay the execution.

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### Creating Strong Advocates for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

At our immigration reform movie night this past May, we learned about the complex political factors that led to the collapse of the 2013 bipartisan legislation for comprehensive immigration reform. It is clear that we are no longer in the collaborative bipartisan spirit of 2013, so the question emerges: do we sit and wait until Congress wants to act or do we take action now?

IJPC's immigration program has shifted in the past few months to focus on creating strong advocates to support the call for comprehensive immigration reform. IJPC's Immigration Committee has rebranded itself to become the Immigration Learning Community. The Immigration Learning Community will provide opportunities for existing advocates to share their knowledge and passion and provide opportunities for the wider community to join IJPC as we learn about each of the complex issues of our immigration system. All are invited Tuesday, August 15 at 6pm to come to the Immigration Learning Community meeting and discuss the hurdles to assisting minors who immigrate to the US unaccompanied.

This summer we have had several groups from St. Vincent De Paul's Ozanam Center for Service Learning visit the office to learn about immigration. The approximately 60 high school students

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Sign up for issue-specific emails and important updates from IJPC!

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national and global systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. IJPC is supported by faith-based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness. We address local, national and international concerns focusing on the death penalty, immigration, human trafficking and peace and nonviolence.