



American Planning Association  
**Ohio Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT

September 19, 2024

## APA Ohio Supports the City of Springfield, Ohio

Following recent national news coverage regarding Springfield, Ohio, the Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Ohio) offers its full support to the City of Springfield and its community members, including its Haitian immigrant population.

APA Ohio unequivocally opposes threats of violence such as those that have been directed in recent weeks at municipal buildings, schools, and hospitals in Springfield, as well as at the Haitian community at large. APA Ohio strongly condemns comments about Haitian immigrants that are demeaning in tone and/or contain falsehoods regarding the behaviors and characteristics of the population.

Immigrants positively contribute to communities across Ohio in a myriad of ways, including through a variety of cultures, languages, and backgrounds that enrich our lives. In communities where employment is available, but populations are declining, many important jobs are filled by immigrants who are contributing every day to local economies and helping to grow the State of Ohio's workforce.

APA Ohio commends local elected and appointed officials in Springfield who have provided leadership to navigate the City's challenges, denounce hatred directed at its immigrant community, and chart a path forward that improves understanding and compassion among community members. APA Ohio also commends Ohio Governor Mike DeWine for his funding commitments for health care and services that will help to address some of the current stresses Springfield is facing.

Welcoming immigrants into our communities—and supporting them with services that improve everyone's quality of life—reinforces fundamental tenets of equity and healthy communities that are expressed through APA Ohio's policy platform.

**To learn more about our positions on key aspects of planning, visit our latest Policy Platform at [www.ohioplanning.org/policyplatform](http://www.ohioplanning.org/policyplatform).**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Anderson'.

**Eric Anderson, AICP**  
*APA Ohio President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Dersi Davis'.

**Christine Dersi Davis, AICP**  
*APA Ohio Executive Director*