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## YOUR VIEW

# City group brings faith communities together

In the wake of the recent killings of Sikh Americans in Oak Creek, Wis., it was heartening to see High Point's diverse religious communities come together for breakfast on Aug. 16 to launch the Interfaith Affairs Committee of the High Point Human Relations Commission. The mission of this new initiative is to improve cultural and religious understanding in High Point by bringing together people of different religions.

The meeting was attended by 35 faith leaders representing multiple Protestant denominations as well as Catholic, Jewish, Sikh, Islamic and Hindu religious groups in High Point. Mayor Smothers expressed support for members of the Sikh community present, emphasizing that "there is nothing more important than our faith communities coming together. Although we may have different backgrounds, we have much more in common."

The Interfaith Affairs Committee is one of 16 different

initiatives being implemented in High Point through Building Integrated Communities, a statewide pilot program that helps municipalities better engage with immigrant communities to increase economic development, improve public safety, and enhance community relationships. With leadership by the High Point Human Relations Commission, more than 150 High Point residents from 26 different countries have come together

since 2009 to share their perspectives and generate ideas.

High Point should be proud of its leaders and its international communities for their work in making the city a better place for all.

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