

October 16, 2012. Saw Brindley presented in order for committee to better understand our Burmese immigrants and the culture. There are 2 faces of Burma; one talks about peace, the other robs, kills, rapes, and take what they want. There are 3 clans in Dumas; 1 has as many as 65. Mr. Brindley indicates to not give them things or they want more. Integration has been a problem. There are Christians and Muslims; Muslims appear to be less respectful with adults. They do not understand the YMCA as they do not understand having to pay to work. They do appear to be settling. The children do not know about their country. The 3 current clans are looking to be taken care of. Food, shelter, and education have been provided through the U.S. government. It is anticipated that the children will be more educated and will move and spread out. Mr. Brindley indicates he sees the children and he can touch the parents through the children. There is some integration going on with churches, and everything goes through Catholic Family Services. Gardening is an important part of the culture; people are touching each other through gardening/food.