

# How We Reduced The Crimes In Wedgewood

The Wedgewood Village Apartment on the westside of Columbus had seen 17 shootings and 7 homicides in the first seven months of 2017. A community organization, MY Project USA teamed up with the Columbus Police to address the situation. They launched several initiatives and were able to stop the violence successfully. We will present about those programs in this presentation.

## **Zerqa Abid** **Founder and Executive Director** **MY Project USA**

She is the Founder and Executive Director of MY Project USA. She is a mother, a philanthropist, a writer, a public speaker, a social/political activist, a community organizer, a campaign consultant and a small-business owner. Columbus Alive has listed her on their 2018 People to Watch list. She also serves as a commissioner on the Greater Hilltop Area Commissioner.

Abid is serving the Hilltop Community since 2015 through her organization MY Project USA. She worked tirelessly to address the violence, drugs and gangs situation in the Wedgewood Village Apartments in 2017. As a result of her work, the crimes have dropped down significantly. There has not been any shooting for more than a year. She started a soccer program in the area "Hilltop Tigers." Their U13 team won the championship at the Mid Ohio Select Soccer League Tournament in Fall 2018. Her food pantry in their thrift store "MY Deah's" on Sullivant Ave., serves more than 100 families on every Saturday morning.

Abid is also a founding member and the President of Muslims for Ohio PAC, a political organization of Muslims in Ohio. She has served on the Hilliard Education Advisory Council. She served as the PTO President of the Hilliard Weaver Middle School. She is a member of Hilliard Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association as well. In the past, she has worked at NBC News. She was the first General Manager of The City Channel of the ARY Digital Network of Pakistan. Through her overseas company, she also organized international trade and consumer shows.

She is a Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude graduate of North Carolina State University. She received "Norma & Wally Ausley Merit Scholarship" for being "The Outstanding Student of Mass Communications" in 2000. She is also a member of Golden Key International Society.