FRANK A. MAURIELLO MINORITY LEADER



PAUL BURGDORF
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINORITY CONFERENCE

HAROLD L. JOYCE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 1360
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
(518) 447-7164 – FAX (518) 447-7238
WWW.ALBANYREP.COM

May 28th, 2024

Eric Adams Mayor, New York City City Hall New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams:

We write seeking a complete and transparent accounting of your administration's non-citizen migrant relocation program in our Albany County communities.

One year ago today, your administration's contracted agents at DocGo began bussing hundreds of non-citizen migrants into the City of Albany and Town of Colonie at night, without notifying local officials or explaining the intent of your new and unsanctioned program. That number eventually grew to over 600 in the weeks and months that followed. In addition, we have been told that with your apartment rental program for non-citizen migrants we now have well over 900 as of today; locations unknown.

Over the course of the last year, our Conference members have sought answers to basic questions on your migrant relocation program, such as how much local taxpayers might expect to pay for education and social services costs in the future. We also requested notification for any future migrant relocations run through your government's program.

Despite the simple nature of these requests, we have been repeatedly denied answers to our questions, and been afforded little to no coordination or communication – even though this continues to have a direct impact on Albany County and the districts we represent. This sad state of affairs has only been exacerbated by the irresponsible actions of your contracted agents at DocGo, as well as the <u>alleged crimes</u> committed by some of the non-citizen migrants you placed in our communities.

Recently, Albany County experienced the arrival of several hundred more non-citizen migrants part of your program from our neighbors in Schenectady County, in what amounted to a repeat of last year's Memorial Day weekend debacle. There was no notification, no coordination, and even today, we are being told conflicting things by different officials on the length of time we can expect these new arrivals to be staying in our communities and the ultimate effect on our school district taxes.

Simply put, we deserve answers to many of the same questions we had last year, as well as new questions we have for you today, including:

- There are well over 900 migrants in your program currently located in Albany County, more than anywhere in the state except New York City. Could you provide an exact number of the migrants in our county and show us how that has grown over time?
- Can you provide a numerical breakdown of where these migrants are by municipality? How many are staying in hotels, motels, apartment rentals or other lodging as part of your developing program? How many are in Albany? How many are in Colonie? Please also provide a breakdown of how many children there are and which school district(s) they are enrolled in.
- Can you also provide demographic breakdowns for the migrants themselves by gender, age, individual/family status, etc.?
- You claim to completely fund this program, but neglect education, social services and other various costs being borne by local taxpayers. How do you plan on making those local taxpayers whole?
- What are your program's concentrations of migrants in Erie, Monroe, Onondaga and other major upstate Counties? Why has Albany County borne the upstate share of your migrant relocation program?
- What is the latest status of the migrants recently relocated from Schenectady County to Albany County? Please provide the same level of specifics as requested in the prior three questions.
- What is the status of your contract with DocGo for the services being provided to the migrants? We understand their contract officially expired on May 5, yet their services are still being used only in upstate New York communities. Please explain this discrepancy.
- How long do you expect this program to last? How will it work moving forward, given the facts and concerns stated above?

We look forward to your response on these questions and a more open line of dialogue moving forward. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Mauriello

Albany County Legislator, District 27

Minority Leader

Todd Drake

Albany County Legislator, District 19

Jennifer Whalen

Paul Burgdorf

Albany County Legislator, District 21

Tatur Schwy Locks #

Albany County Legislator, District 23

Ryan Conway

Albany County Legislator, District 25

Patrice Schwarz Lockart

Deputy Minority Leader

unfer Mal

Albany County Legislator, District 26

mark E. Grimm

Mark Grimm

Albany County Legislator, District 28

Jeff Perlee

Albany County Legislator, District 31

Zach Collins

Albany County Legislator, District 37

Chris Smith

Albany County Legislator, District 39

Cc

Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy

Albany County Legislative Chair Joanne Cunningham

Albany County Legislative Majority Leader Dennis Feeney