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MINORITY LEADER



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ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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August 25th, 2023

Honorable Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive
Harold L. Joyce County Office Building
Albany, NY 12207

County Executive McCoy:

On Memorial Day weekend earlier this year, the local control and governance of Albany County was challenged in a way we have never experienced. A busload of 25 migrants was sent to the Town of Colonie by New York City officials, and as of today, the latest number in our county is somewhere closer to 700 people who have entered our country illegally – or under otherwise dubious immigration standards.

And while there are more overall migrants in the self-declared “sanctuary city” of Albany, every single school-age child is currently located in the North Colonie school district, placing an unfair burden on property taxpayers in that area. Colonie is not a “sanctuary” municipality. New York City officials plan on sending thousands of migrants upstate this year, and Erie County and Schenectady County officials have said they will not accept any more migrants.

We are writing to you today to say *enough is enough*. We have held our breath for too long, in the misplaced hopes that there eventually would be a coherent strategy on the part of county officials. Unfortunately, it is clear there is no plan in Albany County – as is the case with the Biden and Hochul administrations.

Our Conference has acted in good faith for the last several months to help formulate a plan that works best for both the taxpayers and the migrants themselves. We have introduced legislation [that's been promptly rejected](#). We have [called for an investigation](#) that will take an indeterminable amount of time to conclude.

The sad reality is this entire humanitarian emergency has exposed a vacuum of leadership in our country, our state, and our county. Blaming DocGo is not a plan. The root cause is President Biden and the federal government, but until we as elected officials can come up with a plan to address the fiscal impacts, social impacts, and legal impacts of this federal disaster in Albany County, we cannot take any more migrants from New York City.

We must work to halt this crisis in our communities. Whether that's by Executive Order, emergency declaration, or legislative action, we must work quickly and in the best interests of the taxpayers we represent. We can no longer enable open borders and the exporting of migrants from New York City across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



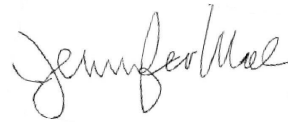
Frank A. Mauriello
Albany County Legislator, District 27
Minority Leader



Paul Burgdorf
Albany County Legislator, District 23
Deputy Minority Leader



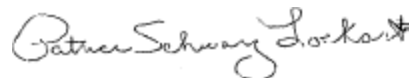
Todd Drake
Albany County Legislator, District 19



Jennifer Whalen
Albany County Legislator, District 21



Pete Tunny
Albany County Legislator, District 22



Patty Lockart
Albany County Legislator, District 26



Mark Grimm
Albany County Legislator, District 29



Jeff Perlee
Albany County Legislator, District 31



Zach Collins
Albany County Legislator, District 37



Chris Smith
Albany County Legislator, District 39

Cc

Governor Kathy Hochul
Albany County Legislature Chairman Andrew Joyce
Stephen Acquario, Executive Director of the New York State Association of Counties