

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Council Agenda Item</h2>
Meeting Date:	11/21/2023
Agenda Item:	Immigration Roundtable_Press Conference 11/10/23
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Dan Meyer <a href="mailto:dmeyer@whitewater-wi.gov">dmeyer@whitewater-wi.gov</a> 262-473-1371

### BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

On November 10, 2023, at 12:45pm, Senator Ron Johnson and Representative Bryan Steil held a roundtable discussion with law enforcement representatives regarding local impacts of immigration. During the meeting, I shared the attached PowerPoint slides regarding impacts of demographic change in the City of Whitewater. The majority of this information has been shared with the Council in open session previously.

A recording of the press conference held after the roundtable discussion can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/883411636/>

Most of the questions posed during the press conference were directed to the politicians, and the discussion became hyperpolitical rather than focusing on the issues impacting us here locally. With that said, I want to share the following message:

Nothing about immigration is comfortable to talk about. I struggle to think of a more complex and polarizing topic in today's world. That said, I see it as my job to make sure we are having these uncomfortable conversations in a way that brings us together, rather than pulls us apart. This community depends on it.

The issue of immigration and the associated demographic change we're seeing here in Whitewater is a critical challenge. The impact is acute and affects us here as much, if not more than, some of the larger cities we hear about on the news. Some of the cases our officers have handled this year are shocking and difficult to process. But as with anything else, it's critical that we don't lose sight of the fact that these are outcomes of individual choices, not a reflection of a group of people.

I've been presenting our data to anyone willing to listen because it's my job to ensure we have the resources needed to properly and proactively serve our entire community. But I want to remind everyone that law enforcement is just a portion of the equation, and we need to have a holistic view and approach to this topic in order to fully address the challenges we're facing. I urge you to consider not just law enforcement staffing when thinking about this issue, but also in what ways the City can support organizations like non-profit entities that are working to improve the quality of life for those who have migrated here.

**PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED**

(If none, state N/A)

1. Demographic Change in the City of Whitewater PPT