



Office of the City Manager
312 W. Whitewater Street, P.O. Box 178
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

MEMORANDUM

www.whitewater-wi.gov
Telephone: (262) 473-0104
Fax: (262) 222-5901

To: Common Council
From: John Weidl, City Manager
Date: January 29, 2024
Re: Media Response

The City Staff has received a significant amount of correspondence from various sources regarding the approved letter on our growing population. This memo aims to inform the council about the range of correspondence we have received.

Following the publication and mailing of the letter, City Staff has been in contact with a multitude of news agencies. These agencies include local news stations as well as those from Washington DC.

The correspondence we received extends beyond media inquiries. We have also received phone calls and emails from community members, both within Wisconsin and from across the country. These conversations have varied greatly, ranging from hurtful and racist comments to curious and productive exchanges.

In addition to media and community responses, we have received letters from elected officials expressing their support or engaging in productive conversations. Senator Tammy Baldwin, Congressman Bryan Steil, and Assemblywoman Ellen Schutt are among the officials who have sent letters. Furthermore, our staff has had productive meetings with Senator Baldwin's office and State Assemblywoman Schutt's office.

To provide the Common Council with a comprehensive understanding of the correspondence received, we have attached a compilation of the mentioned correspondences to this memo. Initially, when this letter was presented to the Common Council I asked the Council to hold on to any sentiments they wanted to add to the letter. I at that time offered to write a letter on behalf of the Council that expresses your interests. However, at this time the City Staff does not think it would be effective to write a secondary letter. Rather allow staff to follow up on the leads and action items that have been brought forth. While meeting with Senator Baldwin her staff mentioned some federal grant money and strategies that the City is eligible to apply for.

Warm regards,
John Weidl, City Manager

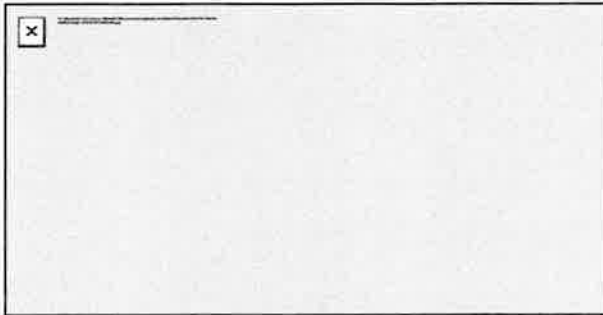
Taylor Zeinert

From: STEVEN MAEL <bodycop@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:49 AM
To: Dan Meyer
Subject: Illegal Immigrants

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Chief Meyer,

As a now eight years retired nearly three decades served state police officer I am appalled by your callous disregard for good sense with your foolish and dangerous cowardice when I read an article such as this...



Small Wisconsin Town's Police Chief Pens Letter
Begging Biden for Help After Flood of Immigrants
westernjournal.com

I can understand, though not forgive the mayor for being a sub-human politician, but the truth of the matter is, you are a pansy ass coward chief as is the mayor. Instead of telling Biden to F-OFF and close the damn border because it's causing crimes, probably 90% of which go unreported because the illegals don't want to have the cops show up; no instead you ask for "resources", tax dollars, our money from our taxpayers dwindling bank accounts due to horrific policies that are causing inflation. Nobody wants to be honest or do the right thing, selfish you just want mo-money!

You're not a man, just an idiot petulant child. Grow up, stop pandering and begging, and start to acting like an adult who actually knows something and is willing to do the right thing. ACT LIKE YOU'RE A CHIEF OF POLICE.

Steven B. Mael

Taylor Zeinert

From: S <szetshe@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 9:02 PM
To: Dan Meyer
Subject: Dude

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey

Many people read your letter to the illegitimate Biden whining about invaders taking over your town.

They wonder if you are on drugs? A drinking problem clouding the brainbox?

They think you are one sick incompetent puppy. Do you have a reply to those folks?

Have a great day.

Sent from Mail for Windows

TAMMY BALDWIN
WISCONSIN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

January 17, 2024

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to express my concern and request immediate assistance for cities and towns across the State of Wisconsin as migration increases demands on existing state and local government resources.

I support the ongoing bipartisan negotiations on legislation that will help fix our broken immigration system, secure our border, and provide the resources the Administration has requested for critical border enforcement activities, communities receiving migrants, and to stem the flow of fentanyl across the border. The United States and the Western hemisphere are experiencing an unprecedented period of migration, straining our infrastructure and our national, state, and local governments' ability to respond. The impact of this migration is not contained to communities at our Southwestern border. Addressing this crisis requires leadership, and as part of your Administration's response, I urge you to ensure that adequate resources and support are available to towns and cities across Wisconsin to keep our communities healthy and safe for all.

I want to ensure your attention to a request you recently received from the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin.¹ Whitewater estimates that between 800-1,000 migrants have arrived since 2022, a population increase of approximately 7 percent.² The city reports that it lacks the resources to provide the types of communication, transportation, housing, and public safety services that are necessary to best serve its community. I am working to connect the city to existing resources that may offset these costs. However, it is clear that more must be done to provide the resources necessary to respond to this period of unprecedented migration and its effects at our Southwest border and across the United States.

That is why am fighting to secure the key investments that will help cities and recently arrived migrants as they integrate in local communities included in the Administration's national

¹ Letter from Chief Meyer, et. al., at: <https://www.wpr.org/documents/letter-president-biden-pdf>.

² S. Lehr, Whitewater Police Chief Preparing Letter Asking for Federal Help in Response to Migration, at: <https://www.wpr.org/whitewater-police-chief-letter-asking-federal-help-immigration>; Council approves letter to President Joe Biden describing immigration-related challenges facing local law enforcement, at: <https://whitewaterwise.com/council-approves-letter-to-president-joe-biden-describing-immigration-related-challenges-facing-local-law-enforcement/>.

security supplemental appropriations request. These investments would include an additional \$1.4 billion in Shelter and Services Program (SSP) grants to local governments to provide food, shelter, and other services to recently arrived migrants; 30 new USCIS officers to speed issuance of work authorization for eligible noncitizens; 375 additional immigration judge teams to adjudicate and process immigration cases; and an additional 1,600 asylum officers and other staff to hear migrant claims and facilitate timely dispositions.

Wisconsin communities must be eligible to apply for this funding. Following appropriation of additional SSP funding, I urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency to broaden the eligibility for this funding beyond those cities and nonprofits that previously received it to ensure that Wisconsin communities, like Whitewater, can benefit from these resources. I additionally urge the Administration to work across agencies to provide technical assistance to communities – small and large – as they work to meet the needs of migrants. This technical assistance is particularly necessary for smaller communities who may lack the resources and capacity of larger municipalities, or who are implementing support services for migrant populations for the first time.

Wisconsin is home to nearly 300,000 immigrant residents, originating from countries across the globe. Wisconsin communities need appropriate resources to provide services to help all Wisconsinites stay safe and thrive. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tammy" and last name "Baldwin" clearly distinguishable.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

CC: Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator



ELLEN SCHUTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

January 17, 2024

Daniel A. Meyer, Chief of Police
John S. Weidl, City Manager
Members of the Common Council

312 W Whitewater St
PO Box 178
Whitewater, WI 53190

Dear Chief Meyer, Manager Weidl and Members of the Common Council:

Thank you for your letter regarding the immigration related challenges the City of Whitewater is currently facing.

As you may be aware, on January 5, 2024, my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Biden emphasizing the need for additional federal resources to provide relief to strained public services in the City of Whitewater.

We have expressed that local municipal services have been struggling to deal with communication, transportation, housing and identification concerns for these immigrants as well as an increase in serious crimes.

The situation in Whitewater is an urgent matter that requires immediate action. I applaud your efforts to seek assistance from the federal government.

I urge President Biden to take necessary steps to ensure the community of Whitewater is safe for everyone. I will continue to support the Whitewater community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen Schutt", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Ellen Schutt
State Representative
31st Assembly District

BRYAN STEIL

1ST DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3031

JANESVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE
20 S. MAIN STREET
SUITE 10
JANESVILLE, WI 53545
PHONE: (608) 752-4050

January 8, 2024

Police Chief Meyer
Whitewater Police Department
312 West Whitewater Street
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

Chief Meyer,

I recently read your letter to President Joe Biden requesting assistance due to the large influx of new migrants to the City of Whitewater. As you are aware from our work on this issue, you and the people of Whitewater have my strong support for your efforts, and I can assure you that I will continue to work on resolving these challenges. I have visited our southern border multiple times, most recently this January, and saw firsthand how dire the situation has become. I am working to force the Biden administration to change course to secure the border and stop the flow of illegal migrants into the U.S. and places like Whitewater.

It is evident through the multiple meetings we have had on this topic that your motivation is supporting your officers and serving the people of Whitewater. Illegal immigration is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a collaborative response, and I appreciate your continued work with my office.

Our country has a broken legal and illegal immigration system. Our first order of business needs to be restoring sanity in our border policies and fixing the humanitarian crisis at the southern border. Communities like Whitewater will continue to struggle to properly serve their residents and maintain public safety until our border is secure.

As you noted in your letter to President Biden, Whitewater is a city of approximately 15,000 people that has been forced to deal with an influx of 800-1,000 migrants arriving primarily from Nicaragua and Venezuela in the last two years. The addition of roughly 1,000 migrants in your community has strained your officers and their resources, making your department unable to serve your residents properly. Big cities like Chicago and New York often receive national attention when undocumented immigrants arrive in their cities; however, smaller communities like Whitewater are often overlooked even when their burdens greatly increase.

To secure our border, protect our local communities, and restore sanity to our immigration system, I am working to enact the Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2), which passed the House with my support on May 11, 2023, by a vote of 219-213 and now awaits consideration in the Senate. This legislation would take immediate action to end catch-and-release, re-institute the Remain in Mexico agreement, expand the use of expedited removal, cease exploitation of parole authority, and would resume border wall construction. H.R. 2 would also end family separations, address

the human trafficking crisis, and increase criminal penalties for illegal entry and visa overstays. Lastly, the bill would make aliens who are convicted of certain crimes ineligible for asylum, including child abuse, domestic violence, and gang-related crimes.

I have also taken multiple actions to address our border crisis by supporting additional funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which provides assistance to law enforcement agencies to target drug traffickers. I have also written to President Biden urging him to maintain Title 42 authority, which gives the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the ability to immediately expel migrants that would otherwise be detained or released into our communities in the U.S. This has led to the infiltration of Mexico's Gulf Cartel in Whitewater. The cartel is running illegal operations in the city such as drug and sex trafficking and selling fraudulent ID documents.

The safety of families and children in Whitewater is my priority. The illegal activity in our community caused by the border crisis is why I'm working to force the Biden administration to change course and implement policies that will secure the border.

As always, please continue reaching out to me and my office for any assistance we can provide, and thank you for your service to the City of Whitewater.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Steil', with a stylized, cursive script.

BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress

