



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

July 22, 2022

Dr. Liz Sherwood-Randall  
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Julie Chavez Rodriguez  
Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President and  
Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

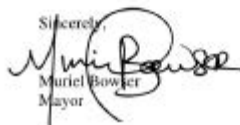
Dear Dr. Sherwood-Randall and Director Chavez Rodriguez:

Thank you for meeting me and my leadership team yesterday regarding our recent letter and request from the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (See Attached). The migrant crisis facing our city and our country through cruel political gamesmanship from the Governors of Texas and Arizona must be dealt with at a federal level. Our ability to assist people in need at this scale is very limited. Instead of rolling up their sleeves and working with the Biden/Harris Administration on a real solution, Governors Abbot and Ducey have decided to use desperate people to score political points. It is important to note that the only reason these migrants are being bused to Washington, DC is that the federal government is based here not because Washington DC is their destination.

To help with this humanitarian crisis, we have been serving as a conduit between FEMA and our NGOs, dispersing \$1 million in FEMA grants as they stepped up to help migrants seeking asylum in our country. This reliance on NGOs is not working and is unsustainable—they are overwhelmed and underfunded. And, placing responsibility for the response to this crisis on American cities is not the way to go.

I strongly encourage you to support my request for the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) to assist in this growing humanitarian crisis. The DCNG was instrumental in our Public Health Emergency and can be even more impactful in addressing the needs of asylum seekers. I continue to stress my request for the DCNG to lead this response in a facility identified by the federal government, much like the response to aid refugees from Afghanistan. Having the DCNG assume leadership will result in a strong and compassionate response that makes the full resources of the federal government readily available. To be clear, our request for the DCNG is firmly in line with precedent and the law pertaining to what the Guard is designed to do.

I have great empathy for the very difficult situation people boarding buses to unknow locations are facing. I likewise am very concerned that the social safety net I am responsible for ensuring for DC residents is maintained. I know the President shares my empathy, and I look forward to working with the Administration to secure the DCNG and a federal facility to process migrants as they seek asylum and a better life in the United States of America free of uncertainty and fear.

Sincerely,  
  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

Attachment