



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

April 29, 2019

Roy Villareal, Chief Patrol Agent
US Customs and Border Protection
US Department of Homeland Security
2430 South Swan Road
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Re: **April 26, 2019 Roundtable to Discuss Various Issues Related to the Release of Asylum Seekers into the Tucson Community**

Dear Chief Villareal:

I appreciate your efforts to improve communications with all parties associated with the federal release of asylum seekers to the Tucson community. These releases are having impacts that should be recognized by the federal government.

First, while you believe communication with local police agencies, including the Tucson Police Department, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and non-government organizations is sufficient, it is, in fact, inadequate. Our local public health agency and our emergency service organizations are left largely in the dark regarding asylum seeker releases to the community. I suggest appropriate protocols be developed so all parties are in the communication loop. This seems like a fairly easy problem to solve.

In addition, as discussed at the meeting, it is our observation that our faith-based nonprofits are overly stressed due to the sporadic and unpredictable release of asylum seekers to the community. While I understand this may be something you cannot control, you do need to recognize the enormous stress this puts on our community. Exhausting our faith based partners in this way means they are less prepared and less available to respond to a real community emergency.

Roy Villareal, Chief Patrol Agent

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Finally, there needs to be a method of cost reimbursement for communities that provide food, water, hygiene products, medicine, medical supplies, housing and transportation to and from temporary housing and permanent housing. In reviewing the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant awards for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018, I note that \$16,720,090 has been allocated to various police agencies throughout Arizona for law enforcement, but no funds have been allocated for humanitarian aid. I would ask that you take steps to reprioritize and fund the FFY 2018 OPSG grant to provide for humanitarian relief.

I would like to thank you for convening the recent roundtable with Tucson Sector Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Jeff Self and other federal officials to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

- c:
- The Honorable Kristen Sienma, United States Senator
 - The Honorable Martha McSally, United States Senator
 - The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, United States Congressman, District 3
 - The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, United States Congresswoman, District 2
 - The Honorable Chairman and Members Pima County Board of Supervisors
 - Gilbert Orrantia, Director, State of Arizona Department of Homeland Security
 - Wendy Smith-Reeve, Deputy Director State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs