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August 25, 2023

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
State of New York
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

It has come to my attention that you have received correspondence and a court filing demanding among other things the exporting of New York City's migrant issue to other localities.

On behalf of my residents, this is my third letter imploring you to listen to the people across the State who are overwhelmingly opposed to the City of New York's uncoordinated decompression strategy, as this Sanctuary City once again pushes you to force communities outside of New York City to take in migrants while giving its jurisdiction another \$6.5 billion. This is a crisis of the City's own making as its own policies are why the migrants are choosing to go there.

Within 60 days of the City of New York's decompression plan surfacing, 38 out of 57 counties, and three towns across the state, declared States of Emergencies to shield their constituents from taking on the City's Sanctuary City responsibility.

All these emergency orders have nothing to do with regrettable comments you once made about bigotry or racism and everything to do with legitimate concerns raised by the majority of residents across New York State regarding infrastructure and limited resources. As such this is about permanent change in our community.

Rockland has been handling our fair share of the burden which we publicized back in March. Organic migration is straining local not-for-profits, schools, and services which is why my administration is adamantly fighting the City's attempt to quadruple our homeless population with the creation of an illegal shelter.

Rockland also has a severe housing crisis that forced your administration to unprecedentedly deputize the County to take over Building and Fire Code enforcement in the Village of Spring Valley. Just this March, we tragically lost 5 lives in a house fire in the Village; the home had 18 people living inside. Sending busloads of people to Counties without available housing will only result in more dangerously overcrowded conditions or a one-way bus ticket to homelessness; in essence hurting the people you and Mayor Adams claim you are trying to help.

For New York City Mayor Eric Adams to file court papers ignoring these realities and demanding your administration break New York State Social Services Law and local zoning laws across the state is beyond maddening, as every municipality has longtime existing laws crafted to preserve the character of each community.

In a home rule state, the Mayor of New York City does not have the authority to force his Sanctuary City declaration on other municipalities which we all know will not solve the issue, rather it will just send more localities into crisis. A mayor cannot break laws and dictate what happens outside of his jurisdiction. Let's not forget all the court actions currently underway, that Mayor Adams is demanding you undermine, which would be unconstitutional and completely disrespectful to the vast majority of your constituents.

A recent [report](#) indicates 3,932 units in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) were empty this summer and more than 2,600 units vacant in the city's supportive housing network meant for homeless New Yorkers. Combined, those units could house 15,000 people.

The article goes on to say it now takes NYCHA an average of 258 days to fill a vacant public housing apartment – nearly double the 131 days it used to take at the outset of the Adams' administration in January 2022. This has resulted in an outstanding 700% increase in vacant NYCHA apartments from 486 at the beginning of Adams' term to the current 3,932.

In addition, New York City's current population is down roughly half a million since April 2020 and over 20,000 hotel rooms are unoccupied. All signs indicating **New York City is not at-capacity nor in crisis but rather under poor management.**

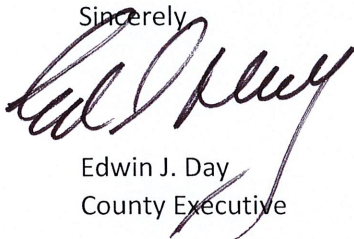
In a recent letter, your administration's legal counsel, in a response to the City of New York's legal demands for help from the state, echoed those criticisms in addition to:

- The lack of legal authority for NYC to extend its Sanctuary City obligation to other localities.
- Lack of coordination and communication with municipalities.
- Causing an array of litigation statewide by sending migrants with little or no notice to localities.

Rather than force this problem on other municipalities, I urge you to tackle the root of the problem; demand that our Federal lawmakers and the President of the United States fix the immigration issue once and for all as no amount of money nor space will solve this issue. Failure to do so will predictably continue to exacerbate the situation.

I also urge you to demand that Mayor Eric Adams to act like a leader and take responsibility for the municipality he swore to serve rather than foist his issues onto others. The humanitarian crisis he speaks of is one of his own making and the "strategy" in play will only encourage and compound the situation.

Sincerely



Edwin J. Day
County Executive