



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

August 05, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to you today regarding the transfer of asylum seekers from our nation's border states of Arizona and Texas to New York City. According to recent reporting, asylum seekers being loaded onto buses from Arizona and Texas are dealt official Department of Homeland Security documentation directing them to social services organizations, rather than New York City's Department of Homeless Services Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH) intake center located at 151 East 151st Street in the Bronx.¹ Alarming, many instances reflect that the addresses to social services organizations on the documents asylum seekers receive are inaccurate, misleading them and in some cases, putting that at risk of removal due to missing an important court date.

Furthermore, we understand that when asylum seekers arrive, they are left stranded, unaware of the resources and locations of the city's intake centers. Briefings provided by the Mayor's Office of New York City indicate that about approximately 4,000 asylum seekers have arrived in New York City over the past few months.² With recent news of Texas' Governor bussing additional asylum seekers to New York City, we are concerned that if this matter is not dealt with in a timely manner, thousands of migrants will continue to be misled and denied resources they are legally owed such as access to food and shelter.

To reiterate, we are concerned with incorrect addresses listed on asylum seekers' paperwork where they intend and expect to receive services. Without an official address to receive all their correspondence, many may miss their court dates to plead their case in front of an immigration judge. As such, it is imperative that your agency work with municipalities who are receiving bussed asylum seekers and guarantee that addresses you are directing them to are accurate. Doing so will ensure that migrants, many of whom are families with children, receive lifesaving

¹ Russo, Melissa. "Migrants Being Sent to NYC from Texas - to the Wrong Places, with No Help, Sources Say." *NBC New York*, NBC New York, 31 July 2022, <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/migrants-being-sent-to-nyc-from-texas-to-the-wrong-places-with-no-help-sources-say/3799297/>.

² Mays, Jeffery C. "Adams Blames Migrants for Shelter Woes. Critics Say That's Too Simple." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 25 July 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/25/nyregion/asylum-migrant-homeless-nyc.html>.

resources in a timely manner. Coordination between federal, state, and local partners is critical to affirm safe housing and access to appropriate social and legal services for asylum seekers.

Considering the miscommunication between DHS, city agencies, social services providers, legal services providers, and asylum seekers, please provide to our offices in writing within 20 calendar days answers to the following questions:

1. How is DHS working to ensure asylum seekers have an opportunity to present themselves to an immigration judge?
2. For individuals that missed or will miss their court date due to being directed to an inaccurate address, what measures will you establish to assure they have an opportunity to reschedule and are not wrongfully penalized for a matter that was no fault of their own?

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Best regards,



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Members of Congress