



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Autism
Spectrum Disorders
COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

July 19th, 2023

Honorable Letitia James
Office of the New York State Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General James,

Last night, my office received deeply troubling news regarding a situation that has profoundly affected our community in Rotterdam, New York, and demands immediate action. As the Assemblyman representing this area, I am absolutely outraged by the recent actions of the Mayor of New York City. It has come to our attention that buses carrying migrants were directed to the Super 8 Motel in Rotterdam for housing needs, essentially evicting the vulnerable individuals already residing there without notice. Some of these individuals were struggling with poverty themselves, some were placed there by County Department of Social Services, and now left to fend for themselves.

While I understand the importance of addressing the challenges faced by migrants, the complete disregard for the well-being of vulnerable community members like this is unacceptable. The decision to place additional burdens on this community without any prior consultation or coordination with local representatives, including my office, is also deeply troubling. We were left to discover the situation through mere rumors and speculations, which is a testament to the lack of transparency and communication displayed by the Mayor's office.

As our state's highest legal authority, I implore you to take immediate action in investigating the events that transpired. My hope is that this probe will uncover whether the vulnerable individuals who were displaced from this hotel were evicted illegally, whether the Super 8 Motel illegally breached contracts with these individuals who had existing long-term arrangements to stay at this location in order to receive a more lucrative contract from the City of New York, and if any other violation of rights occurred.

State government must intervene in this chaotic and unfair situation. Proper protocols should be followed to ensure that the best interests of all parties involved are safeguarded. I kindly request that you use your authority to work towards finding justice for these displaced individuals. Moreover, I urge you to advocate for policies that prioritize open communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local authorities in such critical matters.

I believe that with your assistance, we can ensure that the principles of compassion and fairness are upheld. I look forward to hearing from you soon and working collaboratively to find a just resolution.

Sincerely,

Angelo Santabarbara
Member of the New York State Assembly
111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery & Schenectady Counties