



Town of Salina
OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

NICK PARO
Town Supervisor

September 28, 2023

Senator John Mannion
New York State Senate 50th District
800 State Office Building
333 E. Washington St.
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Senator John Mannion,

As Town Supervisors and Village Mayors in your district, we write to you deeply disturbed to learn of your comments insulting our constituents and their concerns about buses of migrants potentially entering our communities. In the video, you referred to their concerns as “ignorant” and disparaged the decisions we have made at the local level to maintain public safety and services for our towns¹. Beyond that, we were taken aback by the hypocrisy of your private comments, which were completely contrary to the public statements you have made regarding the migrant crisis and in support of our actions².

Residents and leaders of our towns have taken pride on being welcoming and empathetic communities, but as you have said yourself, New York City’s policy of busing migrants to our communities unannounced is a “policy failure” and unfair to residents and taxpayers. As you previously said, “local governments should not have to manage the [migrant] crisis, and we cannot ask local taxpayers to cover associated costs.”

Your private comments undermine the trust and confidence within our working relationship. This contradiction erodes the credibility of your leadership and leaves constituents and local leaders with a feeling of betrayal for being misled.

Respectful discourse is the cornerstone of a healthy democratic system, and it is our responsibility, as leaders, to always uphold these principles. Calling your own constituents “ignorant” because of their concerns is not only disrespectful but flies in the face of the principles of open dialogue and constructive engagement that we should all promote.

¹Phippen, Thomas, and Fox News. “Ny Dem Privately Blasts ‘ignorance’ of Republicans Concerned about Migrant Buses in Leaked Video.” Fox News, FOX News Network, 23 Sept. 2023, www.foxnews.com/politics/ny-dem-privately-blasts-ignorance-republicans-concerned-migrant-buses-leaked-video.

²Donovan, Andrew. “New York City Alerts Town of Salina Supervisor First Bus of Migrants Headed to Onondaga County.” WSYR, WSYR, 23 May 2023, www.localsyr.com/news/new-york-city-alerts-town-of-salina-supervisor-first-bus-of-migrants-headed-to-onondaga-county/.

We urge you to remember that your primary duty is to represent the interests and concerns of the people who have elected you. We kindly request that you publicly address and apologize for the comments made in the private video, acknowledging the value of differing perspectives and committing to respectful treatment of your constituents, even in private.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving a response.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Paro
Town Supervisor
Town of Salina

Damian Ulatowski
Town Supervisor
Town of Clay

Tony Bush Sr.
Town of Hastings
Town of Hastings

Floyd Calkins
Town Supervisor
Town of Hannibal

Daniel E Gurney
Town Supervisor
Town of Oswego

Vern O. Sundet
Town Supervisor
Town of West Monroe

James Oldenburg
Town Supervisor
Town of Scriba

Garry Stanard
Town Supervisor
Town of Volney

Derek Baichi
Mayor
Village of Solvay

Gary Butterfield
Mayor
Village of North Syracuse

William Brazill
Mayor
Village of Minoa