



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CAPE & ISLANDS DISTRICT

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July 31, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Via Email

RE: Request for Investigation into Recent Instances of Transporting Asylum Seekers Across State Lines by Means of Fraud, Deceit, and/or Inveiglement

Dear Attorney General Garland,

As District Attorney for the Cape and Islands District in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having assumed office in January 2023, my jurisdiction includes the island of Martha's Vineyard.

In September 2022, a reported 49 immigrants were transported to this island from Texas. There are serious indications and allegations that they were inveigled into making this journey.

Subsequent reporting and public statements also indicate that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his administration planned, initiated, funded with taxpayer monies, and executed this enterprise.

I am conscious of my obligation as District Attorney to investigate any potential criminal activity that occurs within my jurisdiction, regardless of whether it took place before I assumed office.

Publicly reported information indicates that said enterprise was hatched in Florida, launched in Texas, briefly appeared in South Carolina and North Carolina, and concluded in Massachusetts on the island of Martha's Vineyard. Related communications in electronic and documentary form are suggested to exist in each of the foregoing states.

My office posits that, due to the interstate transportation of these migrants, this alleged scheme remains available for federal prosecution.

Therefore, I stand behind and support a request made to you on July 6, 2023, from the Governor of California, the Attorney General of California, and the Sheriff from Bexar County Texas (where this and a subsequent comparable journey to California originated), to open federal criminal and civil investigations into these incidents.

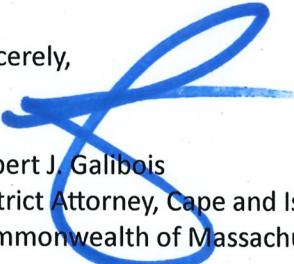
Regarding my jurisdiction in particular, my office is aware that soon after deplaning, interviews were conducted with most if not all the immigrants who arrived on Martha's Vineyard. These interviews are in Spanish.

My initial request is that the Department of Justice assist our office in obtaining certified translations and transcriptions of these interviews. These interviews, coupled with other obtained evidence, would provide crucial support for my initial assessment as to whether further investigation is warranted.

As elected law enforcement and public officials from California to Texas have noted, "[i]t is unconscionable to use people as political props by persuading them to travel to another state based on false or deceptive representations."

Like my colleagues, I stand ready to cooperate with the Department of Justice, provide and share any information about these flights and schemes, and look forward to working with the Department on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Galibois
District Attorney, Cape and Islands District
Commonwealth of Massachusetts