Immigration: Federal Control, Local Impact

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Village of Burr Ridge, Illinois
Disclaimer

The language used in this presentation is intentional and is used to tell a story.

Presenters do not intend to cause offense but recognize that the specific wording or characterizations used may be offensive to some listeners.

We look forward to learning from the perspectives of others.
Why Are We Here?

Consider the ways in which public discourse shapes our communities and positions the value of professional administration within today’s hyper-partisan political environments.

Tenet 2: Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.

Tenet 4: Serve the best interests of the people.
...especially if specific groups may be disproportionately harmed or helped.

Tenet 6: Recognize that elected representatives are accountable to their community for the decisions they make; members are responsible for implementing those decisions.
About Me

• Evan Walter
• 33-year-old Millennial
• From Cleveland, Ohio
• Married to Kim
• Kids - Nora, Merrick, and Rowan
• I enjoy running, play golf, go Buckeyes!
• Village Administrator since 2020
  ◦ Assistant Village Administrator since 2017
• Previously worked for City of Elgin (pop. 120,000) and Senator Sherrod Brown
Burr Ridge, Illinois

"A Very Special Place"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Data</th>
<th>Burr Ridge</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-Born</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH Income</td>
<td>$148,500</td>
<td>$72,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Value</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$212,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monthly migrant encounters at U.S.-Mexico border are near record highs

Total migrant encounters by the U.S. Border Patrol at U.S.-Mexico border, by month

Note: Beginning in March 2020, monthly totals combine apprehensions and expulsions into a new category known as encounters. Monthly totals before March 2020 include apprehensions only.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
On the Ground

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 PM
64 immigrants arrive at a hotel in Burr Ridge

8:30 PM
“Busload of illegals are arriving at a hotel” - County Sheriff

10 PM
Call with Mayor and Vice Mayor

Thursday, September 8

6 AM
Call with Illinois Department of Human Services

8 AM
Developed response sheets

11 AM
Issued public statement

Friday, September 9

All Day
Calls with local, state, and federal officials.

Hotel was host to 75 Afghan refugees in February 2022

Governor's office issues public statement

Saturday, September 10

8:30 AM
Engage staff to formulate updated public statement

12:30 PM
Issued follow up statement and public letter to Governor
“I have not received word from Chicago, Cook County, or the State on this issue. Neither [Village] elected officials nor staff were consulted or contacted about this decision, and we are now gathering information to keep our community updated.”
Mayor (9/8/22)
“The State has a prior relationship with the hotel, who has done amazing work welcoming refugees and asylum seekers before. It is interesting that local officials are choosing this specific instance to gripe to the press about this specific group of asylum seekers that consists of about 30 families. Illinois is a welcoming state and xenophobia has no home here.”

Gov. Pritzker (9/9/22)
Organizational Takeaways

- Get your communications plan in order now to help you later
- Develop trust and open lines of communication with community members to solve problems
- Don’t do it alone; empower your staff
- Know your community to be able to craft thematic messaging
- Identify the assets in your network that can help
My Takeaways

- **01** Get the whole organization on message
- **02** Know your organizational assets, including staff perspectives
- **03** Leaders will meet the challenges which arise when they are authentic
- **04** If you try and BS your way through a problem, you will not solve it
- **05** Bring everything back to people
Summary

Consider the ways in which public discourse shapes our communities and positions the value of professional administration within today's hyper-partisan political environments.

Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.

Serve the best interests of the people.

...especially if specific groups may be disproportionately harmed or helped.

Recognize that elected representatives are accountable to their community for the decisions they make; members are responsible for implementing those decisions.