



POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF NASSAU

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

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BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

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Introduction

Thank you, Chairman Green, Chairman D’Esposito, Ranking Member Carter, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, for affording me the opportunity to testify at this important hearing regarding “Given the Green Light: Open Border Policies and Threats to Law Enforcement”.

I am Patrick J. Ryder and I have served the people of Nassau County as Police Commissioner for eight years. This year is my forty-second in law enforcement. Throughout my tenure, I’ve witnessed the crack wars of the 1980s, the increased cocaine usage in the 1990s, and the more recent, devastating effects of heroin and fentanyl. Last year, NCPD administered Narcan three hundred thirty-five times saving our residents from fatally overdosing. However, despite our efforts, Nassau County still lost over one hundred citizens to substance abuse. Nevertheless, these times pale in comparison to the lawless society we are policing today. This turbulent environment emerged due to the lack of penalty for criminal activity which directly effects the quality of life of our residents. Security measures taken by corporate security to enter New York business facilities is far greater than what is required to enter this country. At our border, migrants are stopped, checked as best as possible, review whatever papers are presented, then offered a court date in excess of one year. In the interim, there is nothing stopping these undocumented person(s) from entering our communities, committing crimes, whether violent or petty, or joining gangs, and preying on Nassau County residents. Today, I will testify to several examples of crimes committed by migrants, but please know, there are many more.

Resources in Safeguarding Nassau County Residents:

Nassau County spans approximately two hundred eighty-four miles and is a home to almost 1.5 million residents. The ethnic and racial diversity of Nassau County citizens closely resembles that of our great nation. 55.8% of Nassau County’s population is White/Non-Hispanic and 18.4% is Hispanic/Latino, compared to the United States which is 57.8% and 18.7% respectively.

New York City being a sanctuary city has a ripple effect on non-sanctuary Nassau County. Nassau County Police Department is the nearest eastern jurisdiction to NYCPD. While New York City addresses the migrant housing crisis, it is reasonable to predict migrants would begin to journey away from the city leaving Nassau County Police Department to protect the border spanning approximately fourteen miles. The NCPD employs resources to address the increased number of undocumented persons within county borders:

- Addressing quality of life concerns reported by Nassau County citizens for an overwhelming amount of peddling and soliciting in malls and shopping centers near the NYC border.
- Increase in aided and intoxicated person calls involving undomiciled aided(s) who state they traveled from NYC. Most of these calls result in aided transport to one of Nassau County's hospitals.
- Nassau County Police Department utilizes Language Line for language translation services whether in person or telephonically. There has been a 95% increase in Hispanic calls to Language Line from 2020 to 2023.
- Emerging trend of summonses to electronic mopeds which are not considered street safe in Nassau County. Moped operators travel to Nassau from NYC where these vehicles are legally allowed to operate in traffic. Since, July 2023 NCPD has seized approximately one hundred fifty mopeds for reasons such as: no insurance, no registration, non-licensed operator, and traveling at speeds in excess of twenty miles per hour.
- Uptick in auto accidents in uninsured and/or unregistered vehicles where vehicle operators reside in NYC.

There are two major categories of migrant crimes where the majority of allocated NCPD resources are utilized. These categories are affected by patrol and not affected by patrol.

Migrant Crimes Affected by Patrol

Crimes that could be affected by patrol are instances where the presence of a police officer would have deterred the crime. Crimes affected by patrol are burglaries, robberies, auto crimes, gang activity, drug sales, and other violent crimes. Over the past few years, Nassau County Police Department has seen an increase in crimes committed by migrants. With bail reform law changes in 2020, the NCPD is unable to utilize incarceration as a crime deterrence for the overwhelming majority of offenses, including many felonies. With no incarceration post apprehension, no ICE notification without arraignment, and no threat of deportation, criminal migrants could be repeat offenders leaving defenseless Nassau County residents to be victims. The following are a sample of crimes affected by patrol committed by migrant defendants:

- Acting on intelligence provided by Homeland Security, detectives conducted a car stop where defendant, an undocumented migrant, was in possession of three kilos of pure fentanyl. The NCPD has made arduous efforts in combating the opioid epidemic. Nassau County fatal overdoses have been trending down from 2021 through 2024. The amount of fentanyl seized had the potential to kill millions of people. NCPD narcotics enforcement will be fruitless if our borders are not secured.
- Nassau County has a notable increase in gang violence involving migrants aligning with MS-13 and Latin King gangs since July of 2021. These crimes include stabbing, vehicular assault, shootings, and assault with a weapon. Three incidents are affiliated with MS-13 / Latin King "war" and all arrestees are migrants, some were here illegally.

- Since October 2022, a total of forty-three undocumented migrants, here in this country illegally, have been arrested and charged with ninety-three counts of burglary. These arrests are considered to be a part of the South American Theft Group (SATG).
 - o SATG jewelry store burglary: Six South American illegal migrants were arrested for a jewelry store burglary in Nassau County and are suspected of targeting numerous jewelry stores along the east coast. Of the six arrestees, one was remanded and five were released without bail. The whereabouts of all five released defendants is unknown. Two never reported to receive their ankle monitors and three cut off their devices.

Migrant Crimes Not Affected by Patrol

The Nassau County Police Department also utilizes resources in an effort to combat crimes committed by migrants that are not affected by patrol. Crimes not affected by patrol would not be deterred by visual police presence such as domestic incidents, sex crimes, and any other crimes that occur outside an officer's field of view. To reduce crimes not affected by patrol, the NCPD relies heavily on crime trends and intelligence gathering. NCPD implements a focused deterrence strategy in identifying known offenders by analyzing prior police contacts, gang affiliations, major crime and felony arrests, as well as arrests involving weapons and reckless endangerment. Undocumented persons who have not been properly vetted before crossing the border, pose a threat to the residents of Nassau County because their intentions are unknown. Illegal migrants render NCPD unable to make an intelligence assessment of character based on the lack of prior knowledge. A lifetime of potential PD contacts such as school incident reports, domestic reports, traffic stops, field interviews, calls for service, and aided reports are missed. The following crimes not affected by patrol have been committed by migrants here illegally:

- In 2014 an undocumented migrant, entered the United States illegally in the vicinity of the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. This subject was placed under arrest and released, then failed to appear for his immigration court hearing. Ten years later, the same undocumented, twenty-seven year-old, illegal migrant, raped a five year-old girl in the confines of his bedroom.
- Defendant, a migrant and MS-13 gang member, raped his domestic partner on two separate occasions. Victim continued the relationship in fear for her safety. Defendant continued violently threatening victim who knew defendant was in possession of multiple firearms. Subsequent to arrest, a search warrant was conducted and several firearms were recovered.

The above-mentioned crimes are atrocities committed by migrants who took advantage of our Country's sanctuary status. The deluded migrant programs and the inadequacy in the vetting process leaves undocumented persons, whose true intentions are unknown, free to wander about our communities. The system has failed the victims of these crimes. The lives of a young child and a young woman are forever altered, not because of failure to deter the crime, but because the perpetrators should have never been in this Country in the first place.

Nassau County is not a sanctuary county, yet we are still faced with defiance. The alternative would create an insurmountable challenge.

Thank you for your time and attention on this consequential matter.