



Homeland Security and Emergency Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

Chairman Gosar
House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Oversight And Investigations Subcommittee
1331 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2024

Dear Chairman Gosar,

The State of New York has worked to support New York City (“City”) throughout the migrant crisis to ensure individuals arriving in the City are provided temporary shelter in accordance with City requirements. With more than 100,000 individuals flowing into New York State over the last year and more than 65,000 currently being sheltered by the City, the State continues to provide fiscal support to the City’s on-going response operation.

Beginning in early 2023, the State submitted requests to the federal government, on behalf of the City, for the use federal lands for expanded temporary shelter. Following discussions with the Department of Interior, the City and federal government executed a contract to allow New York City to utilize Floyd Bennett Field as a shelter for more than 2,000 migrants and asylum seekers. The lease for the use of Floyd Bennett Field (the “Lease”) is between the United States of America acting through the National Park Service (“NPS”), as Lessor, and the City of New York (the “City”), as Lessee. As we understand it, the terms of the Lease were driven by the statutory and regulatory powers and obligations of NPS. The State of New York (the “State”) is not a party to the Lease, nor did the State negotiate the terms of the Lease. Rather, in order to assist the City in ameliorating the migrant crisis, the State agreed, through a separate agreement with the City, to pay on behalf of the City all rent obligations set forth in the Lease. The Lease, which commenced on September 15, 2023 and expires on September 14, 2024, requires over the course of the one-year term the payment of \$20,805,000 in Monthly Rent and \$7,000,000 in Management and Oversight Rent. In addition, to support the City’s provision of shelter and services to migrant persons, the State agreed to reimburse the City for all necessary expenses up to \$383 per bed per night for up to 2,000 beds.

The Lease requires the City to make the following improvements to the property: (i) rehabilitate the historic entrance to Floyd Bennett Field; (ii) repair approximately 12,000 lineal feet of main access routes, including include making repairs to roadways, planting native tree planting, and installing landscaping; (iii) make site improvements to the approximately 770,000 square foot Historic Hangar B parking lot and RV camping sites; (iv) upgrade the existing 30 public camping sites and clear and grub an additional 30 sites, including making improvements by adding signage, removing invasive trees and vegetation, installing fire rings and picnic tables at each site, regrading the access trail, and building a new permanent restroom facility; and (v) improve the area around Building 272 to support the development of an outdoor education campus, including clearing invasive plant materials, constructing permeable walking trails, rehabilitating the existing greenhouse, installing a new parking area, and adding visitor amenities. The City may use up to \$14,400,000 of the Monthly Rent to cover the cost of these improvements.

As Congress considers its next steps in providing additional funding and authorities to address the global migration currently challenging the nation's immigration system, the State of New York will continue to support New York City in deploying City and State resources and staff to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals in the New York City shelter system.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Bray".

Jackie Bray
Commissioner