

Dear Representatives,

My name is Tim Maddocks. I'm a researcher and faculty member [at the University of Pittsburgh](#). Today, I'm writing in regards to the Judiciary Committee's hearing on TPS. (Today at 2 p.m. — hoping this gets to you in time.)

For the past 12 months, I've been working on a book about the borough of Charleroi — where I've seen the impact of TPS firsthand, teaching English to immigrants and shadowing local politicians and businesses. There is a split in this town. Some people see the value of their new immigrant neighbors — and respect their earnest efforts to assimilate and build community. Others see it as an offense to their heritage and their past.

The man giving testimony falls into the latter category. What follows are some simple findings about the state of Charleroi as I've found it — it's rare for its ability to grow in a region that's greatly depressed; its educators are proud of the work they've done with their immigrant students, and its Haitian communities are desperately afraid of returning home.

I hope this little fact sheet can help bring clarity to the situation.

On investment & Its Growth ...

- [Mon Val Capital](#) headed by C.M. Kennedy is actively and heavily investing in the borough, buying old buildings and renovating them into affordable and mixed-use real estate. The Republican County Commissioner, Electra Janis, is promoting this economic development [on her Facebook page](#).
- In November, [Gerry Raymond Ford Dealership purchased](#) a car dealership in the center of town and has pledged renovations and continued investment, having already updated the city's paving and parking lots.

On Education & Its Success...

- In October, the Charleroi Area Elementary School was celebrated for its excellence with [the prestigious "Blue Ribbon" Award](#). The honor — awarded to just 13 schools across the commonwealth — recognizes high academic achievement, equity and inclusive learning environments.

On Traffic Accidents — which have NOT increased ...

- The local Charleroi Area Police (Chief Chad Zelinsky) and the (Charleroi Volunteer Fire Department Chief) Bobby Whiten both disagree with Councilman Celaschi's assessment that the immigrants have made the roads more dangerous. [In the Mon Valley Independent](#), Zelinsky said "Traffic accidents are not skyrocketing."
- The data from Fire Dept., is as follows: "In 2022, they handled 40 serious accidents, including 23 injury crashes and three with people trapped inside vehicles. That number dipped in 2023 to 29, but rose again in 2024 to 41. As of the end of August 2025, the department had already responded to 32 serious accidents, 16 of which involved injuries."
- The data from Fire Dept., is as follows: "In 2023, CRPD recorded 141 total crashes, followed by 126 in 2024. Through August 2025, they've documented 93, putting this year on track to match previous years, without seeing a spike as high as might be expected by some leaders or residents." — Sourced to the Mon Valley Independent, Oct. 4th.

On TPS in the business community ...

- The local meat packing plant — Fourth Street Barbecue — is the company most well known for employing immigrants in the area. (Although immigrants work in many different industries here.) Last year, they employed 1,000 people. Since Trump's immigration policies, [they've shuttered one of their two plants](#) — and now only employ 252 people. **Their public liaison tells me, the majority of their workers are on Asylum Visas.** (NOT TPS.)

On Haiti

- The TPS status applies most significantly to the town's ample Haitian population. Today, I'd guess there's not more than 500 of them living here.
- From a recent report by Jason Motlagh in Rolling Stone: "Nearly 5,000 people died in gang violence over a nine-month period ending in June, according to the U.N. Hospitals, schools, media offices, and cultural touchstones have come under attack, along with the U.S. Embassy compound. The airport receives few domestic flights, and the gangs control all of the main roads in and out of the capital, choking aid and commerce. A Haitian journalist colleague likens it to an "open-air prison."

Thank you for your time! Good luck with today's Hearing!

Best,
Tim Maddocks