



Town Administrator

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information on housing migrant families in Somerset MA

Town Administrator: Mark Ullucci

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Somerset, MA – On August 8th 2023, the Governor’s Office put out information declaring a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts. The declaration from the Governor’s office called for immediate federal intervention, streamlining and expediting work authorizations, and increasing funding to states to assist in providing shelter and services to families. Displaced families are currently being housed in hotels or other similar accommodations.

Massachusetts law requires cities and towns to find housing for migrants coming into this state under the right to shelter provision. No local approvals or permits are required at this time. On August 10th Department Heads and I met to prepare for any logistical challenges. These meetings have been taking place weekly and have allowed us to prepare for impacts Somerset may face.

Around September 7th, families began moving into the Orbitz Inn, here in Somerset. There could be up to 32 rooms utilized for this purpose. Currently, this is the only Hotel/Inn here in Somerset, hosting on behalf of the state. According to the Governor’s Office, there are more than 5,500 families living in emergency shelters throughout the state.

In speaking directly with personnel from the Governor’s Office, we have learned that all of these families have gained legal entry. Additionally, the state is providing for all meals and shelter. The National Guard will assist with the logistics of health care, transportation, and agency referrals.

Somerset will track all services as we move forward. Department Heads will continue to meet weekly, addressing concerns and collaborating on needs. Local agencies will ensure compliance of local by-laws, and our school personnel are working to ensure children and families are brought into our schools appropriately. This office will remain committed to pushing out information as it becomes available and will seek state relief for services.

Finally, to those that have already called to offer assistance, and share concerns, thank you for your input.