

From: Ward03 <Ward03@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Steve Berlin <Steve.Berlin@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: Summary of Migration Trip/Alderman Pat Dowell

Mr. Berlin,

On June 18th through June 22nd of this year, I was a member of a Chicago delegation that traveled to San Diego and Mexico on a fact finding trip with the Haitian Bridge Alliance and the Organization of African Unity to hear and learn more about the migration challenges and experiences of Haitians and other people of the African Diaspora. I was invited by OAU in my role as a member of the Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights who has been most vocal as an advocate for migrants of the African Diaspora seeking sanctuary in Chicago. This trip was financed by OAU and included approximately 14 individuals.

The delegation included other elected officials, representatives from immigrant organizations, foundations and not for profits.

Our trip took us to the Iris Avenue Transit Center in San Ysidro where approximately 200-300 migrants a day are dropped off by Custom Border Protection. We also toured the San Diego Airport to review how the airport staff works with not for profit support agencies to provide services to those migrants who arrive to the U.S. by air travel. The Haitian Bridge Alliance organized a dinner with their staff to gain perspective on their work in the US and in Mexico. The delegation also traveled to one of 8 CBP sanctioned crossing aligning the Mexican and American border. Finally, we traveled to Tijuana, Mexico to visit black migrants in three shelters seeking to cross into the US. We met with many migrants to hear their migration stories, struggles against the racism evident in Mexico, and hopes for a new life in either the US or Canada. Our delegation also provided supplies of food, toiletries and clothing. Finally, we met at the Haitian Bridge Alliance office to debrief on the trip and commit to future work in Chicago.

In closing, the delegation agreed to put together a short documentary of the trip and organize a public meeting to be held in late August.

This trip was also documented with pictures on the Alderman Pat Dowell Facebook page.

If you need more information or pictures for your file, please let me know.

Ald. Dowell

The 3rd Ward Team

****The 3rd Ward Public Service Office has launched a new website!! Check it out at Ward03Chicago.com for all your constituent service needs****