

## City statement regarding incorrect community information

To keep residents as informed as possible, we want to address incorrect information that has appeared in opinion pieces in the news media and on social media regarding the City Council's discussion about migrants arriving in Denver.

- Lakewood City Council is not considering designating Lakewood as a "sanctuary city." No council member has made this proposal, and it is not something the City Council is considering or planning to consider in the near future.
- No council member proposed housing migrants arriving in Denver in vacant Jeffco public schools, which the City of Lakewood does not own, manage, operate or control.
- The only action City Council has taken during its January meetings has been to direct the city manager to meet with the City of Denver's staff as quickly as possible to better understand the migrant crisis, its impacts and the needs as well as possible options for Lakewood to work with Denver on this crisis in the spirit of "being a good neighbor."
- Council also directed the city manager to provide a report of the meeting with Denver staff during the Feb. 12 City Council meeting to determine any possible next steps.
- The City Council's discussion of this issue during its Jan. 8, 2024, [meeting can be reviewed online](#).
- The focus of this request is to address the humanitarian crisis through such avenues as mobilizing nonprofit organizations in Lakewood to support Denver's needs and are not an attempt to offer housing in Lakewood. The city's role in this example could be providing access to information and resources or connecting individuals in need with nonprofits and volunteers in our community.
- This kind of work is a proactive step to keep the community safe, to ensure resources aren't overwhelmed and to respond strategically and compassionately to everyone who is involved.

We appreciate the community's input, and we hope this information helps clarify and provide accurate information to the community.