



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

SELECT BOARD

11 South Street
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01473
www.westminster-ma.gov

Public Notice - September 11, 2023
RE: Migrant Placement in Westminister

At this time, Town Administration has confirmed that Making Opportunities Count (MOC), Inc of Fitchburg in cooperation with the State's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), will be coordinating the placement of up to 30 displaced migrant families at the Rodeway Inn under the authority of the State's "Right to Shelter" law. The town has not received a confirmed move-in date but it is projected to be within the next week.

The Commonwealth's "Right to Shelter" law obligates the State to provide housing for families with children and pregnant women without homes, and the State's policy is to place these families in hotels in cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth without the need for local approval and in many instances, without prior notice.

There are currently hundreds of migrant families being housed in hotels in communities throughout the Commonwealth, and soon that will include Westminister. Only action regarding immigration policy at the Federal level or a change in State law can directly address this situation.

In light of these circumstances, it is our sincere hope that Westminister will continue to be the kind and welcoming community we all know it is. Integrating these new migrant families into our town and school district will be a challenge, but we are prepared to remain in compliance with the Governor's initiative and State law during this time. As a small town and a tight-knit community, we will endeavor to help our new inhabitants adjust, feel welcomed, thrive, and become productive residents of Westminister.

This Board is confident that by working collaboratively with our State and Local Legislators as well as Town and School leadership; we will meet the needs of this new challenge.

As always, our Town staff and officials are available to address concerns, answer questions and assist as needed. Thank you all for your cooperation and support in this matter.

This notice will be placed on our Town website and updated as needed based on information received.