

July 3, 2014

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas  
Post Office Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428



**CITY OF BRYAN**  
*The Good Life, Texas Style.™*

*Office of the Mayor*

Dear Governor Perry:

There is a vacant U.S. Army Reserve Center on Carson Street in Bryan, Texas. The facility was vacated almost a year ago as a new facility was constructed. The property for the old facility once belonged to the City of Bryan and based on decades old agreements, this property is to revert to the City once the military vacated the premises. While this process has taken much longer than anticipated, we recently learned another use may take priority over the transfer back to the City.

We have been informed the U.S. Army Reserve Center will be offered as a possible facility to house unaccompanied minors crossing the United States borders. So instead of the City of Bryan possibly taking back ownership of the Carson Street property, a Federal Transfer is being considered. This option is unacceptable to the City of Bryan and we respectfully request your assistance.

The community does not have the resources to support an influx of unaccompanied minors. For example, the Bryan Independent School District includes 75 percent disadvantaged students, which already puts a strain on the education system. While the plan may be to use the Reserve Center as a temporary holding facility, we anticipate many of the unaccompanied children being in the area during the school year and anticipate the Bryan ISD, and possibly the College Station ISD, being the district(s) responsible for educating them.

We are a diverse community with the Bryan ISD well representing the State's demographics with a student population of 53% Hispanic, 25% White, 20% Black, and 2% Other. Adding unaccompanied minors could put a tremendous strain on the community. We have a large senior/retired population on fixed incomes, and we have a large college/university student population, a group that is historically classified as "under employed" in terms of per capita income. As we attempt to address this challenge, adding unaccompanied minors only complicates the issue.

Setting aside the education and economic impact to the community, health and safety also are concerns. Introducing unaccompanied minors into a community the size of Bryan-College Station could tax the health community to an undesirable limit. Additionally, we are responsible for the safety of our citizens and visitors. In that respect, we wonder how the Reserve Center can be home for unaccompanied minors or "visitors" when just last year the facility was not considered functional for the military. We assume many upgrades and improvements will be necessary before the facility can function as housing.

Your assistance is humbly requested to address this concern. We understand some communities are preparing for the arrival of unaccompanied minors; we highly encourage those areas to be considered as appropriate locations for the minors. Again, the Bryan community is not prepared to accept unaccompanied minors. The Reserve Center property should continue its transfer path to the City of Bryan as agreed to several years ago. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jason P. Bienski  
Mayor, City of Bryan

cc: William H. "Bill" Flores, U.S. House of Representatives, 17<sup>th</sup> District of Texas  
Dr. Charles J. Schwertner, Texas Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
John N. Raney, Texas Representative, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Kyle Kacal, Texas Representative, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
City of Bryan City Council  
Dr. Thomas A. "Tommy" Wallis, Superintendent, Bryan Independent School District