

## **Comments on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors 072314 Hearing on the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center**

I am not entirely certain how to frame my comments on the Board of Supervisors Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at which people expressed their opinions in regards to aliens illegally coming across the U.S./Mexican border. My attempt here is to keep it as factual as possible and without being too snarky.

### **Comments on Compassion and Responsibilities**

First, those crossing the border into the U. S., adults and minors, from any country are doing so illegally. If that were not the case then “illegal entry” would not be the Federal Government’s formal charge that justifies holding those alien children in the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center (SVJC).

Approximately 25 individuals spoke on the subject of the SVJC at the Augusta County Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting. About nine of them supported holding Unaccompanied Alien Minors (UAMs) at the SVJC and allowing them to enter the U. S. Of those nine, two were Hispanic, one having lived in the U. S. for 15 years and the other for 25 years, neither of which could speak English, and required a translator.

[A comment: How do you live in the U. S. for 15 – 25 years and not be able to speak English? What does that say in regards to the assimilation into the U. S. community? If you say ‘we ugly ole Americans’ are at fault my reply is that those two individuals have showed no motivation to be part of this Nation, legally or not.]

The message from the 9 supporting the presence of UAMs in the SVJC or otherwise said it was the compassionate thing to do. They said those who do not support illegal entry are practicing ‘fear mongering’. They accused those who did not agree with them as practicing ‘hate.’

I have difficulty accepting that only those 9 had compassion and the other 16 speakers did not. Compassion for the UAMs is one thing, and I believe all 25 speakers felt compassion, if for no other reason than the UAMs are victims, one way or another. But to have compassion for the 50,000+ who illegally entered begs two immediate questions: (1) What should be our feelings for the minors who remain in those Central American Counties south of Mexico and north of Panama and (2) what should we do about them? I think the first question can be answered immediately – the same compassion. The answer to the second one requires a bit more consideration.

First, who is responsible for the circumstances in those countries? I suggest the responsibility is that of governments and the people of those countries. How many decades have the governments, rebels, gangs, and drug lords of those nations been so self-serving and cruel to ignore the plight of the people, to use the people, and to threaten and kill the people of those nations? And how long have the people of those nations willingly let themselves, their communities, and their very societies, be so treated? For the adults of those nations to run in fear of gangs of youth is beyond my comprehension. If gangs of youth can organize to intimidate the adult community then why can't the adults at least organize in opposition? Does someone from the outside have to show these adults how to do this, as was the case in the movie "The Magnificence Seven?" And why do the governments of those countries let gangs reign? At a minimum, those governments could and should, be a Magnificent force.

Yes, there should be compassion, but to what limits and extent can this be? Should we allow, or even pro-actively encourage and enable, all the children of those nations to come to the United States and have us take care of them? And, if we do that for those children then what about those of other nations, such as in Africa, the Far East, the Middle East, and even parts of Europe? What is the limit? And, if no limit then what will the consequences be?

I ask myself what about the compassion we should have for our own citizens and their jobs, livelihoods, and communities? What compassion should we hold for our Nation? What compassion should we have for the integrity of our communities and ourselves? These questions are not a matter of being selfish or of hating. It is a matter of limits, of boundaries, and the essential existence of our Nation. No Nation and no People can extend universal and unbounded compassion without the consequence of that which follows becoming something other. The framework of a Nation is structural; it must have order and it is necessarily finite in capacity.

Our society is a Nation of Laws. We cannot excuse ourselves, or others, for any transgression of those laws. Once laws are transgressed the boundary has been exceeded and it cannot be repaired without some remedy. But remedy is not always possible and the consequence cannot always be restoration.

### **Comments on the Responses of the Members of the Board of Supervisors**

Someone needs to instruct one of our supervisors that the United States of America is not a "Democracy." It is representative form of government called a "Republic." James Madison called it a "Compound Republic" and defined it in Federalist Paper 51. Furthermore, there is something above the Federal

Government called "We the People." For an understanding the fellow needs to study Federalist Paper 46.

Someone needs to tell another supervisor to not lecture the People in the audience. Dave Beyeler, bless him, use to do this and I cannot tell you how many people he p---ed off by doing so. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, including supervisors. But a supervisor is one of the elected, not one of the electors. For an elected official to lecture the People is a signal they are irresponsible at the least and arrogant at the worst. And, that same supervisor needs to understand that Emma Lazarus' poem pertained to the spirit of taking all who came "legally" to our shores. If that individual does not understand this then he needs to read, and understand, Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the United States.

I could comment on the remarks made by the other supervisors, but I think to do so would degenerate into something that would sound a bit snarky. So here is my general impression of their remarks: (1) The 16 individuals who objected to illegal entry and to the housing of UAMs who have just arrived at the border had little effect. Like the voting that took place on particular matters earlier in the BoS meeting the position was 7 to 0 for the status quo. Their positions were made up before the meeting and unchanged at its end. Their remarks were to some extent CYA. And, to make matters worst, at the end a woman in the audience asked for the supervisors to raise their hand if they had ever heard of, much mess were familiar with, Cloward -Piven. Only one raised his hand, Marshall Pattie. I doubt the other six supervisors took time to remember the names or find out who they are much less look into their strategy

### **The Position of the SVTPP**

What follows below what I, as Director of the SVTPP, presented to the BoS. I did so in a rational and calm manner. I sought to present the problems and then provide a solution in a cooperative and respectful manner. I did this in the spirit of three quotes from Ronald Reagan:

- "The American dream is not that every man must be level with every other man. The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become."
- "We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."
- "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the

first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."

----- SVTPP PRESENTATION TO THE AUGUSTA COUNTY BoS -----

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**Comments made to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors  
Federal Use of Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center  
July 23, 2014  
Edward R. Long, Ph. D. (140 New Hope and Crimora Road in Augusta  
County)  
Director  
Shenandoah Valley Tea Party Patriots**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Supervisors,

It is a good thing that you have provided this opportunity for citizens to speak.

My name is Dr. Edward R. Long. I am a citizen of Augusta County. My address is provided in the text from which I read and will give to you.

I am speaking as the Director of the Shenandoah Valley Tea Party Patriots, a local community organization with some 1500 members

Economist Milton Friedman famously pronounced: "There is no free lunch."

So it is with the annual ~ \$3.2 million provided by the Federal Government for the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center. That money is paid by the taxpayers of Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro, OR China. Furthermore, if after release any minor remains in the SWAC area under guardianship then those same taxpayers pay the cost of education, health, and other services such as social, police, and first responders.

If the grant from the Federal Government had not been initiated 5 years ago we would not be in the circumstances we have at present. Yet, I do understand that without support by either/or the Federal and State Governments then the municipalities that support this regional facility would never have agreed to participation. What we have is a well-intended facility that exceeds the monetary capacity and physical needs of the municipal region it serves.

I will not dwell on them here, but earlier today I sent by email to the Board secretary a collection of documents that include Federal and Local measures made to relieve citizens of the financial and social burdens that are being caused

by the Federal Government actions at the U.S./Mexican border. The collection includes four documents from Congressman Goodlatte that provide detailed discussion and bills he and other members of Congress have submitted to stem what is taking place at the border. It also includes the Washington County BoS's Resolution 2014-16 that opposes housing of Illegal Aliens of all ages within that County and a directive of the Chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. I do wish on behalf of the SVTPP you will take the time to read and understand the content of these documents.

I am not here to speak against the illegal minors. I am here to insist that what our Federal Government and Central American governments are doing is not in the interests of those minors, their families, and the communities of those nations.

Therefore the SVTPP politely insists on two actions:

1 - The SVJC cease the housing of minors being shipped by our Federal Government from the present border situation to our detention facility. We ask that you do this in the form of a motion for a letter to be sent to our Federal Government stating refusal to continue that practice.

If this is not done then all that the Augusta County BoS is doing is condoning a very wrong practice that is detrimental to our Nation and to those minors.

2 - A long-term pro-active effort be made to expand the number of municipalities being served by the SVJC until its monetary needs and physical capacity are filled and the contract with our Federal Government is brought to an end. In other words, we politely insist that tax dollars (Local and State) be used to serve the needs of the citizen minors who have violated Local, State, and Federal laws.

The Federal Government than can use that money to take care of our Veterans.

To this latter effort we offer our pro-active involvement to work with Local and State officials to make this so.

Thank you