

Remarks from a discussion on Immigration Advisory Board letter to Bellingham City Council RE J28 from September 21, 2021 IAB meeting recording (https://cob.zoom.us/rec/play/HrXsJqX4gVk4xjlZCGyjdj3gMI4zhgtjULfgkMp7ZkOLsTRYUwtyBGmMuDsiOdGzQhL1ysvBUJ_YcbSFz.-DOP4nEUveOqy2Ql)

These remarks are pulled from what was about a 7 minute conversation, the topic or content of which was not noted in the minutes for that meeting.

01:37:47 Liz asks Ada Rumford if she wants to say anything about IAB J28 letter and lack of response:

Ada Rumford: “Yeah, I don’t really have much. I mean, I did - I think Nalini, I might have emailed you just to check in. But I haven’t heard anything from the City, so I don’t really have much to get back to you guys on.”

Liz Darrow: “There was a public comment while you were gone that an individual had reached out to Council Member Michael Lilliquist, and in his mind they had addressed it just by the response that - the response before we even sent the letter, which was in the media the press release. But our letter was in response to the press release, so there we are.”

Ada Rumford: I’m curious, because we were very specific about, you know, our concerns regarding the immigration population here, not generally about what happened.” (01:38:59)

Council President and IAB liaison Hannah Stone’s response at around 01:39:09:

“First, I just want to apologize and take responsibility and ownership for the lack of response from Council. Definitely, as a member of Council myself, and as liaison to this group, and currently serving as president of the Council, in hindsight I think it was probably my job to respond. But being so close to this work as liaison to the board, I was hoping for a response and interest from other Council Members.

“And in hindsight, likely they were not responsive because they were thinking that, ‘oh, Hannah will address this.’ So I do want to apologize for that. I should have provided a formal written response to the board, and will do so.

“What I have been doing behind the scenes has been trying to bring the issues that the letter raised before the Council in an agenda bill that would look at those mutual aid agreements and try to get to the bottom of, you know, how

those aid agreements are carried out and what standing, basically, the City policy has if any time we partner with the County - you know, are we going to have to assume that then Border Patrol is going to be invited, and present, and where does that leave our policy? And where does that leave our community in trusting that our policy actually has some weight?

“And there has been resistance, we will say, to having those discussions. But I am still working on that. And I hope that that will be - my goal is that will come before the Council before the end of the year in one way, shape, or form.

“So - but I do want to take the opportunity to apologize and take that responsibility and I regret that the time has passed without a more direct response. But I believe that the work and concerns that were highlighted in that letter are profoundly important and my hope is that the City is going to take that seriously.”

Also at 01:42:17:

“And I think part of the response or lack of response in moving things forward is because January 28th and what transpired that day obviously has evoked lots of criticism, and critique, and response from the community. And so some of it was concern about, like, ‘we’re going to bring all of this back up again, you know, now that it’s like where’ —

“Things are trying to suppress it, right? And not wanting to bring it up again, and saying, like, ‘well it’s not going away just because you don’t acknowledge it,’ so, yeah. So the hope is that’s coming to light soon. But I will certainly keep you posted.”