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From: Bimblesro@aol.com
Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 18:55:30 EDT
Subject: Fwd: FW: rumor of immigration deportation office
To: amccummings@yahoo.com

Here's the original email

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Forwarded Message

From: "Faydeen Sateriale" <faydeen@hotmail.com>
To: "Rollins, Sonya" <bimblesro@aol.com>
CC: "Smith, Annie" <anniesmith13@comcast.net>
Subject: FW: rumor of immigration deportation office
Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 11:25:58 -0400

HTML Attachment

Hi Sonya,

I received the attached email and thought maybe you could help either enlighten or extinguish the "rumor".

Please let me know. Thank so much!

Faydeen... 

From: anniesmith13@comcast.net
To: donna.desimone@comcast.net; mfdesimone@comcast.net; mforester@comcast.net; Jamartinco@aol.com; faydeen@hotmail.com; vgiogas@rcn.com; Mary.Schorr@sunlife.com; metzdorf5@rcn.com; jbrine3@aol.com; lmittchell12@verizon.net; wikier@comcast.net
Subject: rumor of immigration deportation office
Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 10:05:57 -0400

Hi All,

I am trying to confirm or put to rest a rumor that I recently heard. I was wondering if anyone has any information as to the possibility of an immigration deportation office currently being considered in Burlington. I was told it may have a couple of holding cells and would attract some unwanted visitors to Burlington. I was also told that there may be a selectmen meeting on November 5th to address this issue. If anyone has any information, please let me know.

Thanks.

Annie

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From: Bimblesro@aol.com
Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 18:55:01 EDT
Subject: Fwd: FW: rumor of immigration deportation office
To: amccummings@yahoo.com

Here's my answer to them

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Forwarded Message

From: Bimblesro@aol.com
Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 18:54:08 EDT
Subject: Re: FW: rumor of immigration deportation office
To: faydeen@hotmail.com

HTML Attachment

Faydeen,

Thanks for your email. Shelly Forester had sent it to me as well....if you don't mind, I am going to cut and paste what I wrote to her. I hope that helps. Please call me 781-221-0313 if you have any questions. I don't think there is anything to be overly concerned with...

Hope it helps...call me if you need me. Ok...here's the info.

Hi Shelly,

Yes. I do know about this. The email you have is right in saying that there a lot of rumors going around. There are also some truths. Here's what I can tell you.

In September of 2006, the planning board had a site plan review and approval process for a change in the exterior of a building at 10 New England Executive Park. It is, in fact, Immigration that will be going in there. The Federal Government is not the owner of the building but will be the tenant.

The reason it even went to the planning board is that they wanted to change some exterior things (put a fence up and I believe a garage door in the building) so it went to site plan review. Within the zoning by law, the use of immigration offices is allowed. The Inspector of Buildings did look at it at the time and determined that it was an allowed use.

It never came before the Board of Selectmen -- it was not required to. We do not look at site plans. Had they not asked for a fence, it wouldn't have even come to the Planning Board.

Here are some facts about what is going in there.

Immigration Offices are going in there. While the building is predominantly offices, yes, there are a few holding rooms. When someone is being processed from immigration, they are held. Nothing more, nothing less.

Our town administrator spoke to the Washington Office and to the people in Boston about it. They said that hours of operation are 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. No Nights, no weekends and no one is ever held overnight at this place.

Our town administrator also told me that the Chief of Police was also in the meeting with him. They told the

Chief that they never need local authorities. If they need to transport someone, they use the County Sheriff. According to Bob, the Chief of Police is satisfied.

Next, there are other federal offices also going into the same building. These offices are already in the office park and are being moved into building #10.

Lastly, there was also some discussion of people who had managed to "keep them away from Lexington". To be honest, it was approved in Lexington. They then needed to get a variance for the building (not the use). The Board of Appeals approved it. A group of citizens appealed their decision. The federal Government knew that it would take over a year in an appeal and did not want to wait. They moved on. For the record, they would have won the appeal if they went for it.

I know people are concerned about what is perceived as "criminals" coming in. I think we can agree that while that is certainly possible, it is not the sole purpose of the building nor is the majority of the building. I can tell you that people are upset that it was perceived as an office building and someone must have deceived someone else to get it through. I don't believe that's the case. For your information and others, there are holding rooms in a lot of different places such as the Mall, but it is primarily a retail establishment. While clearly not exactly the same thing...there are holding rooms for the processing of immigrants (illegal and not illegal) in this building.

I can tell you as a person who has family who have migrated to this country, immigration and their processing procedures are not offensive to me. They do their job and when someone is in need of being processed, they are held. Simple as that.

This project was approved over a year ago. Construction on the building is well underway. I am sorry that it has been a cause of alarm for people. I don't think there is a need for that.

I will tell you that it would have clearly been nice of the Federal Government to let us know of their intentions of moving an office here but it is not required of them. Again, I think we can all agree that we would have liked to know.

Now, as far as the email you forwarded to me, if it is being discussed at the November 5th Board Meeting...I don't know about that. It's not on the agenda.

Immigration said they would be more than happy to let us tour the building upon completion. If it is as bad as people have perceived it, I don't think they would let anyone in.

Hope all that helps. Please call me or encourage others to call me as I don't want people to be alarmed unnecessarily.

Hope you're well...

Sonia

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