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SANCTUARY CITIES: GOOD INTENTIONS GONE ASTRAY?



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 7, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

A letter appeared in the Minneapolis paper which expressed disdain for a cartoon depicting San Francisco as a sanctuary city which releases illegal immigrant prisoners. It showed a prisoner walking out of a cage and the caption read "Get out of jail, free - This card good for multiple felonies." The letter writer called this a blatant lie and offered worn out explanations as to what the truth really is. I thought it deserved a brief response.

Here's my response:

Sanctuary Cities: Good Intentions Gone Astray?

A December 6 letter expressed disdain for Lisa Benson's political cartoon published on December 5. It depicted San Francisco releasing illegal immigrant criminals from jail. It showed a prisoner walking out of a cage with the caption: "Get out of jail, free - This card good for multiple felonies."

The writer stated: ".....this cartoon is a blatant lie. Sanctuary policies don't advocate for letting felons out of jail. They advocate for.....separating the role of police from.....immigration enforcement." The writer justifies sanctuary status as a means to maintain public cooperation, trust and safety. She stated further: "That is why I am proud that Minneapolis is a sanctuary city....."

An objective observer of recent California events could reasonably reach the conclusion satirically depicted in the cartoon. The explanation of "separating police from immigration enforcement" was adopted as a plausible public excuse, but I believe that misleading explanation is totally transparent.

Those who chose the term "sanctuary city" weren't focused on public cooperation, trust and safety - that came later as a convenient excuse. They had something very different in mind. The "sanctuary city" tag says it all.

The writer and other supporters of sanctuary status should look into their hearts. Do they find a compelling desire to improve public trust and safety? Instead, I think they'll find a compelling and often sincere desire to open their arms to immigrants. Sadly, and probably unintentionally for some, they are providing a criminal element something that's not deserved - "sanctuary." The good intentions of some have gone astray.