



## WHITE HOUSE TO RICK PERRY; OK, LET'S MEET

By Colleen McCain Nelson  
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After Texas Gov. Rick Perry told President Barack Obama that a “quick handshake on the tarmac” was not enough time to talk about the crisis on the border, the White House extended an invitation for a longer conversation when the president visits Dallas this week.

Hours after Mr. Perry on Monday rejected an airport encounter and requested a private meeting with the president, White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett wrote to the Texas governor and offered a sit-down with Mr. Obama to discuss the surge of children and families from Central America crossing the border illegally.

“The president would welcome a meeting with you while he is in Texas,” the letter says. “In addition, he asked me to invite you to join him for a meeting to discuss the situation on the border with faith leaders and local elected officials in Dallas on Wednesday.”

Mr. Obama plans to travel to Dallas and Austin Wednesday and Thursday for fundraisers and a speech about the economy. The White House had not previously announced the event in Dallas referenced in the letter.

As the president’s trip to Texas has drawn near, the White House and the Texas governor’s office have sparred from afar. Mr. Perry has pressured the president to visit the U.S.-Mexico border this week and has chastised the administration for not doing more to secure the border. White House officials have said that if the governor were genuinely concerned about border issues, he would encourage House Republicans to pass immigration legislation.

Ms. Jarrett’s letter ticks off a list of steps the administration has taken to address the influx at the border. On Tuesday, the president is expected to request more than \$2 billion in emergency funds to deal with the surge of minors entering the country illegally.

“The president hopes you will join him in urging Congress to quickly pass the emergency funding to deal with the current situation at the border,” Ms. Jarrett writes. “In addition, the administration continues to press Congress for action on a comprehensive immigration reform.”

Mr. Perry sent his own letter to the White House on Monday, telling the president that a handshake on the tarmac wouldn’t suffice. The governor sought a “substantive meeting” to discuss border issues.

While the White House had not yet heard back from Mr. Perry’s office Tuesday morning, the Texas governor had written that “with the appropriate notice,” he would change his schedule to accommodate a meeting with the president.