

“I have been to Linter”

American Ambassador proves his visit to Commune with Picture.

The community council of Linter is inviting Howard Gutman, the Ambassador of the United States for an official visit to its commune. “The ambassador has, in contradiction to what he claims, not visited Linter,” says Mayor Marc Wijnants (CD&V) “Yes he did,” they know at the embassy. And Ambassador Gutman has proof.

The Commune Linter sent a message to the American Ambassador Howard Gutman with an invitation to visit their commune. “The ambassador claims that he has visited all Belgian communes”. We however have to establish that he has not visited any of the Hageland communes officially, among them Linter,” says Mayor Marc Wijnants (CD&V). “This is why we sent our invitation.” *(In English) “ Your Excellency, I am honored to invite you to Linter. Regrettably, we could not respond to your invitation to visit the embassy on 5 May. Linter is one of the villages that you have unfortunately not visited.”* This is how the letter started from the Linter Commune to the American Ambassador Howard Gutman. “We sent a registered letter yesterday. The ambassador will also receive an email, says Marc Wijnants.

During a talkshow on EEN Ambassador Gutman announced that he wanted to visit all 589 communes in Belgium. His goal was not only to meet prominent people, but to meet normal civilians and employees in companies. On May 5th, Gutman declared in Voeren that he had visited all communes. Still, they claim in Linter that Gutman has forgotten them, officially that is. “The Ambassador did not want to impose himself on all communes because such a visit costs time and money,” the embassy explained. “He thus did not want to force anybody to receive him This is why he chose to stop by in all communes that he did not visit officially, to take a picture and talk to one local. This also happened in Linter, as you can see on the picture. There are a number of communes that did not receive an official visit. This does not mean that he is not willing to visit these communes officially during his remaining time.”

“We hope that the ambassador will respond positively to our invitation. This way he can discover what the Gete valley has to offer in tourism, culture, and food. We can offer him a program on May 26 during which we can let him taste our local beers, especially de Walsberger, during our monthly meeting at brewery Lestedropper.”