



Homeland
Security

December 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ronald D. Vitiello
Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing
the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Michael P. Davis
Executive Deputy Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FROM: Veronica Venture (b) (6)
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SUBJECT: Complaint Closure
Contra Costa County Jail
West County Detention Facility
Complaint No. (b) (6)

This memorandum discusses the outcome of the investigation the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) conducted into the conditions of detention for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees at the Contra Costa County Jail's West County Detention Facility (WCDF) in Richmond, California. Following a collaborative process between ICE and CRCL that focused on findings and recommendations made by CRCL's subject matter experts, ICE informed CRCL that it is no longer using the facility. Consequently, as of the date of this memorandum, CRCL is closing the above-listed complaint.

Background:

In June 2018, CRCL conducted an onsite investigation to review complaints regarding inadequate medical care and conditions of detention. During the investigation, CRCL engaged the assistance of two subject matter experts: a medical doctor and a conditions of detention expert. Following the onsite, in September 2018, CRCL sent ICE a memorandum containing 19 recommendations, along with the experts' written reports.

In November 2018, ICE responded to the recommendations. In its response, ICE indicated that it no longer detains individuals at WCDF as of August 2018, and as a result would not provide responses to each of the recommendations. However, ICE indicated that, in the event that it resumed housing detainees at WCDF, ICE would assess the recommendations.

Conclusion:

While CRCL did have concerns about several aspects of medical care and conditions of detention at the facility, since ICE is no longer housing detainees at the facility, CRCL has closed the above-mentioned complaint. Although CRCL requires no additional response regarding the housing of ICE detainees at WCDF at this time, CRCL requests that ICE notify CRCL prior to the use of WCDF should they decide to begin housing detainees at the facility again.

It is CRCL's statutory role to advise Department leadership and personnel about civil rights and civil liberties issues, ensuring respect for civil rights and civil liberties in policy decisions and implementation of those decisions. As a result, we appreciate the work that has been done by ICE to address CRCL's concerns. We have taken into account this important work in addressing our concerns, and accordingly, CRCL is formally closing the complaints identified in this memorandum. This memorandum is our final report regarding WCDF. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of the Compliance Branch, Dana Salvano-Dunn, at (b) (6) or (b) (6)

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