

July 19, 2018

TO: [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Lead Compliance Inspector  
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: **Annual Detention Inspection of the Etowah County Jail**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS Over 72 Hours) of the Etowah County Jail in Gadsden, Alabama during the period of July 17-19, 2018. This is an IGSA facility.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector. Team Members were:

Subject Matter Field	Team Member
Detainee Rights	[REDACTED]
Security	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]
Safety	[REDACTED]

### **Type of Inspection**

This is a scheduled annual inspection, which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a previous rating of Acceptable during the July 2017 inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The Etowah County Jail is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) - Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) - Yes
- The Joint Commission (TJC) - No
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - No

### **Standards Compliance**

The following information is a summary of the standards that were reviewed and overall compliance that was determined as a result of the 2017 and 2018 annual inspections:

<i>2017 Annual Inspection</i>	
Acceptable	37
Deficient	0
At Risk	0
Repeat Deficiency	0
Not Applicable	2

<i>2018 Annual Inspection</i>	
Acceptable	37
Deficient	0
At Risk	0
Repeat Deficiency	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified fifteen (15) deficient components in the following nine (9) standards:

- Detainee Handbook - 4
- Food Service - 1
- Issuance and Exchange of Clothing, Bedding, and Towels - 1
- Environmental Health and Safety - 3
- Key and Lock Control - 2
- Security Inspections - 1
- Segregation Management Unit (Administrative Segregation) - 1
- Segregation Management Unit (Disciplinary Segregation) - 1
- Tool Control - 1

#### **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Etowah County Jail is operated by the Etowah County Sheriff's Department. The facility was constructed in 1993 and began housing detainees in 1994. [REDACTED] The facility has a planned renovation project to completely renovate the entire facility to begin July 23, 2018.

The facility houses all custody levels of [REDACTED] The facility does not house juveniles. On the first day of the inspection the total population at the facility was [REDACTED]

There are ten housing units, three of which are dedicated to ICE detainees. The dedicated ICE housing units have capacities of [REDACTED]. All are cell housing and contain a combination of two, four and six-person cells. Direct supervision is provided for each housing unit. Sanitation was below average throughout the facility. Graffiti was observed on cell doors and cell walls. Water was leaking from the ceiling in several areas.

The housing units include a large dayroom area with tables, chairs, a microwave and two televisions. An outdoor recreation area providing fresh air and sunlight is adjacent to each housing unit and is available seven days a week. Law libraries are also located in a room adjacent to each housing unit.

Detainees spend the majority of their time socializing in the dayroom, playing dominoes and cards, watching television and participating in outdoor recreation activities. During the previous twelve months the facility began providing electronic tablets to detainees. The tablets have various self-help programs, videos, and games for detainee use. Detainees are permitted to use the telephones in the housing units daily between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. Visits with family and friends are accomplished





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through video equipment. Recently the facility implemented remote video visitation, whereby family and friends may visit detainees from remote locations such as their home.

No less than 80 ICE detainees were interviewed during the course of the inspection. Some interviews were confidential and some were with detainees who had limited English proficiency using the language line interpretation service. Detainees voiced general satisfaction with living conditions and with access to the law library, facility personnel, telephones, medical care, mail, visitation and translation services if needed. All detainees stated that they felt safe in the facility. None of the detainees interviewed expressed any life safety concerns. Some detainees complained about the food service portion sizes and blandness of the food. The Safety SME found the food quality and the portions to fall within the requirements of the standards. Two detainees said that ICE officers were not readily accessible when needed. Electronic logs revealed that ICE officers regularly visit the units. ICE personnel have offices directly across the street from the facility and are on-site interacting with staff and detainees most days of the week.

Detainee telephone services are provided via contract with NCIC Inmate Communications. Keefe Group is the contracted vendor for commissary services. Medical services are provided under contract with Doctors' Care Physicians P.C. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care.

Overall, the atmosphere at the facility was observed to be generally calm with no obvious indicators of high stress. Staff were observed interacting with detainees without any indication of hostility.

#### **Areas of Concern/Significant Observations**

There were no areas of concern or significant observations.

#### **Recommended Rating and Justification**

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Acceptable. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS). No (0) standards were found Deficient and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-seven (37) standards were found to be in compliance.

#### **LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of compliance and non-compliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324 Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief was conducted at the facility and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following were present:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED] (via telephone)
- Facility Staff [REDACTED] and various other command and administrative personnel.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector

July 19, 2018

Printed Name of LCI

Date