

October 9, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Folkston ICE Processing Center Annex**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 of the Folkston ICE Processing Center Annex in Folkston, Georgia, during the period of October 7-9, 2020. This inspection was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 virus. This is a Dedicated IGSA (DIGSA).

The annual 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 PBNDS for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the June 2019 annual inspection.

### **Inspection Summary**

The Folkston ICE Processing Center 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) - Yes

### **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 2019 and 2020 PBNDS 2011 compliance annual inspections:

<b>2019 Annual Inspection</b>	
Meets Standards	40
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

<b>2020 Annual Inspection</b>	
Meets Standards	39
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Findings	0
Not Applicable	3

The inspection team identified zero (0) deficient components.

### **Facility Snapshot/Description**

The Folkston ICE Processing Center Annex is located in Folkston, Georgia and is owned and operated by The Geo Group, Inc. (GEO). The facility is a DIGSA that serves as an annex to the Folkston Ice Processing Center located a quarter of a mile away. The [REDACTED] facility houses male ICE detainees. [REDACTED]

Detainees received to the Annex come from the main facility after admission processing, classification assignment, and completion of the fourteen-day stay in the designated quarantine housing area. ICE also uses the Annex for under 72-hour hold status for detainees that are being transferred to other facilities.

There are five housing units divided among two-person cells and open dormitory arrangement used to house detainees of custody levels ranging from low to high. A review of detainee rosters verified that detainees are not commingling with other detainees of dissimilar custody levels. Officers are posted in the living units providing direct supervision. There is a dedicated special management unit (SMU) containing twelve rooms with two-person occupancy. Since May 2020 however, the SMU has been inactive due to the decrease in the detainee population and infrequent use. Detainees requiring SMU placement are currently moved to the special management unit at the main facility and ICE is notified. Living units appear well lit with both natural and artificial light and have adequate open space for detainees. A housing unit floor plan and photographs of the housing units were provided for review. General population housing units have dayrooms that are furnished with tables and chairs for detainees to participate in leisure time activities and socializing. The compliance administrator reported that board games, leisure reading material, playing cards, and televisions are among the amenities available to detainees. Staff reported that detainees have access to computer tablets in each housing unit for ordering commissary items and reviewing the detainee handbook and submitting electronic requests to ICE. Detainees reported that they have daily access to outdoor recreational activities such as basketball, soccer, handball, fixed dip/pull up bars, and walking areas. General visitation and group religious services have been temporarily suspended due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. Video visitation is available to detainees and the facility chaplain conducts smaller group services in each of the housing units. Other COVID-19 response operational changes include all newly received detainees being held under 72 hours are placed in a designated quarantine housing area until they are transferred to another facility. The facility has arranged with the telephone provider to allow thirteen free weekly calls for detainees to maintain positive family ties in the absence of family visits due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The facility is reported to be climate controlled and appeared to be in good repair based on photographs reviewed by inspectors. All officers interviewed were well-versed in facility guidelines and operating procedures as well as the National Detention Standards. Officers and staff were professional during interviews and detainees spoke willingly and respectfully. A review of photographs, videos, sanitation inspection reports, and telephonic interviews with staff and detainees concluded that the sanitation level of the facility was average.

The inspection team interviewed twenty LEP and English-speaking detainees housed at the facility. Interviews were held telephonically and with the assistance of an interpreter when needed. There were no substantive concerns voiced when asked about access to medical care, treatment by staff, mail services, or access to ICE. Food was reported to be average at best in quality and in quantity. Some detainees complained of telephone calls cutting out unexpectedly due to the service losing signal. During an interview with the OIC, he indicated that he was aware of the concern and was working with the telephone provider to come up with a solution. One LEP detainee stated that he was receiving threats from another detainee and feared for his safety. The officer supervising the immediate area of the detainee was made aware of his concerns and was asked to isolate the detainee in a safe housing unit until he could be interviewed by the shift supervisor. The detainee was later moved to the main facility to be housed. The medical SME investigated two medical complaints from detainees housed at the Annex. One detainee complained of an eye examination being delayed and the other detainee complained of needing his wisdom teeth extracted. The HSA, who was aware of the circumstances of both complaints, stated that both procedures are postponed due to the global pandemic and to avoid unnecessary exposure. A detainee being housed in the medical observation room at the Annex was also interviewed by the medical SME and reported that he was under observation for a head injury that he received from being assaulted by another detainee. The detainee's main focus was concerning his case for asylum and wanted to know if staff were investigating the circumstances of his assault. The medical SME informed the HSA of the detainee's concerns at the conclusion of the interview and asked that he be interviewed further by appropriate staff.

Finally, all detainees that raised substantive complaints or concerns during the interviews were asked if they had submitted their concerns to the Office of Inspector General. No detainee reported that they had submitted their concerns beyond facility staff.

Food and medical services are provided by GEO employees through shared services with the Annex. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. Dental and mental health services are contracted with local providers.

Detainee telephone services are provided by Talton Communication, Inc., via contract with the facility.

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

There are no areas of concerns or significant observations. The inspection was conducted remotely, and inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility. The inspection team relied upon photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.

### **Recommended Rating and Justification**

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. The facility complies with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011. No (0) standard was found as Does Not Meet Standards and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-nine (39) 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-324A Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief was conducted



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telephonically with facility staff and ICE representatives. In addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following were present:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]
- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector

October 9, 2020

Printed Name of LCI

Date