

December 10, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director for Detention Management

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

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Geauga County Jail**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed a remote annual inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) of the Geauga County Jail in Chardon, Ohio, during the period of December 8-10, 2020. This is an IGSA facility.

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 that is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS for Over 72-hour facilities. The October 2019 annual inspection was rated Meets Standard.

Inspection Summary

The Geauga County Jail is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) - No
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) - No
- 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 2019 and 2020 NDS compliance inspections:



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2019 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standard	36
Does Not Meet Standard	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	3

2020 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standard	36
Does Not Meet Standard	0
Repeat Findings	0
Not Applicable	3

The inspection team identified five (5) deficient components in the following four (4) standards:

Classification System – 1

Visitation – 1

Environmental Health and Safety – 1, which is a repeat deficiency

Key and Lock Control – 2, one of which is a repeat deficiency

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Geauga County Jail was constructed in 2005 and is located in Chardon, Ohio. The facility is owned by the County of Geauga and operated by the Geauga County Sheriff's Department. [REDACTED] The facility employs the indirect model of supervision to all custody levels of adult male and female detainees for ICE, Geauga County inmates, and Cuyahoga County inmates. [REDACTED]

ICE detainees are comingled in nine independent housing units with populations of similar custody levels. Six of the housing units are used to house male detainees; while the three remaining housing units are reserved for female detainees. Detainee housing ranges from eight-person and twelve-person single-cell housing units to 60-bed open dormitory-style living arrangements. Three of the celled housing units have two cells that may be used for special management housing. SMU cells are double occupancy and separated from the remaining housing unit by a detention grade sliding door that creates a sally port entrance. 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. The dayrooms in each of the housing units are furnished with tables and chairs for detainees to participate in leisure time activities and socializing. The OIC reported that board games, reading for pleasure, playing cards, and television viewing are among the amenities available to detainees. Kiosks are available in each of the housing units to order commissary items, review the handbooks, and have video visitation with family and friends. Kiosks are not programmed to send electronic requests to ICE or facility staff. The facility provides two dedicated areas for detainee recreation. The outdoor recreation area is covered but equipped with screened openings that allow for natural light and fresh air to enter. A basketball court is available in the outside recreation area. The indoor recreation area is equipped with stationary exercise equipment for detainee use. General visitation was suspended during the inspection period due to health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. On June 20, 2020, non-contact detainee visitation resumed. While religious volunteer services have been suspended due to COVID-19 concerns, the facility chaplain offers religious programming, but limits group sizes and arranges seating to achieve safe social distancing. Other COVID-19 response operational changes include all newly received detainees being placed in a designated quarantine housing area for their first fourteen days, and the facility recently received two UV light sanitizers and disinfectant sprayers to enhance jail cleaning efforts.

The facility is reported to be climate controlled and appeared to be in good repair based on photographs reviewed by the inspectors. A review of photographs, videos, sanitation inspection reports, and interviews with staff and detainees concluded that the sanitation level of the facility was average. 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.



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The inspection team interviewed 21 limited English proficient (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 treatment by staff, access to telephones, mail services, access to ICE, or medical services provided. Food was reported to be above-average in quality and quantity. A bilingual detainee stated that he did not receive a local handbook written in Spanish during admission, but did receive an English version. The detainee stated that he can read Spanish better than English; arrangements were made with staff to provide the detainee with a copy of the Spanish version of the local handbook. A detainee interviewed by the Medical SME stated that he didn't feel safe being housed among county inmates and related that he felt bullied by one of them. This detainee also stated that he was using hot water from the housing unit shower to prepare noodles and rice purchased from the commissary because he didn't think the hot water provided by the drinking fountain tasted very good. The shift supervisor interviewed the detainee who stated that he was not being physically assaulted, nor was he receiving threats of physical assault. The detainee's concerns were limited to one county inmate controlling the television in the housing unit and name-calling from a distance. The detainee failed to provide examples of name-calling when asked by the shift supervisor. The detainee declined safe housing when offered by the supervisor, stating that he knew that the inmate that he was concerned with would be released soon and reiterated that he did not feel physically threatened. The detainee was advised not to use the shower water for food preparation.

During LEP interviews, one detainee of Spanish descent complained of a dirty ventilation grate located near his sleeping quarters blowing dust particles on him while he sleeps. The maintenance supervisor inspected the area and found that the cold air return vent located near the base of the wall had a small amount of dust build-up on the inside of the vent. The maintenance supervisor removed the vent, vacuumed it, then remounted it to the wall. 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 detainees reported that they had submitted their concerns beyond facility staff.

There were no concerns raised about COVID-19 protocols and safety measures required of the detainee population. There were no active COVID-19 cases reported during this inspection.

Food and medical services are provided by Geauga County personnel. The facility does not charge co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care. The facility doctor, dentist, and mental health services are contracted with local providers.

Detainee telephone services are provided by Combined Public Communications (CPC) via a contract with the facility.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations from this remote inspection. 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 National Detention Standards (NDS). No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet Standard and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-six (36) standards were found to Meet Standards.

LCI Assurance Statement



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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 at the facility and 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

December 10, 2020

Printed Name of LCI

Date