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DATE: November 13, 2013

TO: AFOD Ramon Bado

FROM: Major D. K. Henson

REFERENCE: Response to the Letter Received from the UM School of Law Dated 11-1-13

The Glades County Sheriff's Office received a copy of a letter, dated November 1st, 2013, signed by law students and faculty from the University Of Miami School of Law, Immigration Clinic, sent to local ICE officials. The narrative of the letter outlines and identifies the groups' "concerns and recommended solutions", after a visit to the detention facility on September 13th, 2013, while conducting a "Know Your Rights Presentation" to the ICE population. The letter identifies a specific set of PBNDS ICE Detention Standards as the guide for their concerns, but notes the detention center is not contractually obligated to operate using that set of standards. The writers of the letter go on to identify their interest in influencing any current or future contractual interactions for renewal of services between the Department of Homeland Security and the Glades County Sheriff's Office, by noting ICE officials could and should use its authority to "encourage a contract facility to abide by the PBNDS standards or from making contract renewal contingent of immediate adoption of the most recent standards."


It is noted by their signature to the letter, that the two faculty members who are responsible for the letter are Mrs. Romy Lerner and Mrs. Rebecca Sharpless. Both these faculty members are well respected Attorney's within their community. Each are personally and professionally involved in immigration law and immigration activist's organizations, both locally and nationally. This is evidenced by their active participation, both past and present, in organizations such as FIAC and AI Justice. Both these activist organizations strive to contribute in the areas of immigration rights and immigration reform.

The various "concerns" documented in their letter identify a range of opinions, conclusions, alleged issues and occurrences, perceived policy and standard violations, inaccurate and false statements and alleged criminal acts facilitated by the Office of Sheriff and its' staff within the detention facility against detainees at the facility. The narrative does not provide any documentation, data or physical evidence in support of the "concerns". The narrative utilizes hearsay, unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations, inaccurate interpretations of standards and federal regulations, misinformation and false statements in its concerns and conclusions as well as for the formulation of the proposed recommended remedies. At no point within the accusatory letter, were any concerns identified or referenced specific to mistreatment, abuse, civil rights issues or poor standard of care for the United States Citizens incarcerated and held within the facility. It is also noted some items referenced in the letter was information obtained from sources from previous year's visits and alleged events.

The Glades County Sheriff's Office currently operates and strictly adheres to the obligations outlined in DROIGSA070117 with respect to the provision of services for detainees held under the jurisdictional control of the Department of Homeland Security. This is evidenced by its meeting and in most cases, exceeding the current standards of care required for this population. The Sheriff's Office has, and will continue to, cooperate and assist with performance reviews and inspections, as outlined in Article V, DHS/ICE Detention Standards and Article IX, Inspection. The Detention Bureau cooperates and assists ICE representatives and officials with reviews, inspections and investigations as necessary and/or required, in order to promote and maintain the highest level of care, custody, control and service. The sworn staff working within the Detention Bureau adheres to the agencies Code of Conduct, Professional Ethic requirements, Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Codes, Florida Model Jail Standards and National Detention Standards while serving their community, the State of Florida and their Country. Their service and work product is demonstrated as evidenced by the pride, distinction and professionalism they exhibit in the performance of their duties on a daily basis.

The University Of Miami School of Law, Immigration Clinic, is not an identified or recognized regulatory office or authority. The Glades County Sheriff's Office is not required or obligated to provide assistance or responses to the University staff and/or its' students, specific to their biased, unsupported allegations and concerns with regard to the standard of care for immigration detainees held within the facility under the jurisdictional authority of the Department of Homeland Security. The Sheriff's Office is always available to faculty members of the University to discuss factually based inquiries with respect to processes they are directly involved with while interacting at the facility.

Very Best,


Major Keith Henson
Director of Operations
Glades County Sheriff's Office

cc: Sheriff Whiddon
Chief DeMann
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