



TOWN OF NEWBURGH

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February 11, 2026

Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Honorable Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Re: Opposition to Locating a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing and/or Detention Facility in Warehouses within the County of Orange, New York

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

The undersigned members of the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh, one of the twenty towns, three cities, and nineteen villages which comprise Orange County, New York, write in support of the County's opposition to any proposed plan for locating an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) processing and/or detention facility in Chester, New York or anywhere within the County of Orange.

On December 24, 2025, the Washington Post published an article which indicated that the federal government produced a draft solicitation that may seek private detention contractors for the renovation and use of industrial warehouses to process and detain U.S. ICE detainees. On January 8, 2026, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a Notice of Activity regarding a proposal to purchase, convert and occupy an empty warehouse property at 29 Elizabeth Drive in the Village of Chester, NY, formerly the "Pep Boys Warehouse" as a detainee processing facility having between 500 to 1,500 beds. Orange County subsequently adopted a resolution opposing any proposed conversion of the "Pep Boys Warehouse" in Chester or any warehouse or facility within the County for use as a processing and detention center by ICE.

The Town of Newburgh supports Orange County's opposition. Warehouses and similar facilities typically are not planned for and lack the necessary infrastructure, including water, sewer and roads, that are necessary to accommodate a large transient population of detainees. Additionally,

warehouses and similar facilities are built for the storage of products and packages, not human occupancy. Safety, structural, and accessibility standards for safe occupancy differ substantially between commercial and residential (sleeping unit) structures. Whatever their status, detainees should not be housed in facilities which have not been designed and constructed at least to the International Building Code standards established for transient occupancies.

Sensitive environmental factors, such as flood plain management, wetlands and tributaries may be impacted by a conversion to include fenced outdoor areas for detainee activities and guard facilities. Furthermore, in many instances, municipalities have allowed warehouses and recreation facilities often serving families, children, and youth to be located in close proximity, finding the uses generally compatible during their planning processes. Needless to say, the compatibility of a detainee processing facility is suspect at best.

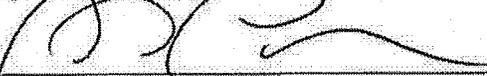
Many of the County's municipalities, including Chester, have relatively small police forces and lack the necessary law enforcement manpower to address the potential issues that may arise at a processing or detention facility containing 500 to 1,500 detainees. Fire and emergency medical services in many cases consist of already overburdened volunteers. Orange County's own law enforcement resources, primarily consisting of its Sheriff's Office, are already committed to many ongoing matters and their potential diversion to the facility could result in safety concerns for the County's populace. While the division of law enforcement responsibilities among the County's multiple jurisdictions allows more effective, specialized, and localized community policing, it also creates certain challenges for resource allocation, communication systems, intelligence sharing, equipping, funding for specialized services and emergency responses. Proposed detainee processing facilities are better suited for locations where a robust, single law enforcement agency and professional first responders are available for emergency responses.

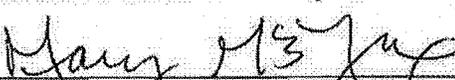
For the above reasons, the Town of Newburgh endorses Orange County's opposition to locating an ICE detainee processing facility anywhere within the County.

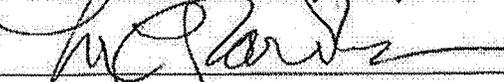
Very truly yours,


Town of Newburgh Supervisor Gilbert Piaquadio


Deputy Town Supervisor & Councilman Scott Manley


Town Councilman Anthony LoBiondo


Town Councilwoman Mary McLymore


Town Councilmember Mary Lou Carolan

cc: Hon. John Thune, United States Senate Majority Leader
Hon. Charles Schumer, United States Senate Minority Leader
Hon. Mike Johnson, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator for the State of New York
Hon. Patrick Ryan, United States Congressman for the 18th District of New York
Hon. Kathleen Hochul, Governor of New York
Hon. Robert Rolison, New York State Senator for the 39th District
Hon. Jonathon G. Jacobson, New York State Assemblyman for the 104th District
Hon. Steven Neuhaus, Orange County Executive
Hon. Genesis Ramos, Orange County Legislator for the 4th District
Hon. Virginia Scott, Orange County Legislator for the 12th District
Hon. Stephen R. Hunter, Orange County Legislator for the 16th District
Hon. Brandon Holdridge, Supervisor, Town of Chester