



**The City of  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

January 22, 2026

Alexis Price  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office of Chief Readiness Support Officer  
Springfield, VA 20598-0075  
[alexis.t.price@associates.ice.dhs.gov](mailto:alexis.t.price@associates.ice.dhs.gov)

Re: Proposed processing center in Oklahoma City

Dear Ms. Price:

Thank you for the December 23, 2025 letter regarding the proposed processing facility to be located at 2800 S. Council Road in Oklahoma City. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments.

It is the City of Oklahoma City's longstanding position that decisions about land use are best made locally. The placement of a detention facility is an issue of local interest that would benefit from a public process involving residents, especially the neighbors of such a facility, which are most impacted and can have their concerns addressed through the public process. Any private sector activity would be subject to such a process. Oklahoma City ordinances require a detention facility to secure a Special Permit granted by our City Council. Although federal authority may exempt DHS from local permitting requirements, voluntary compliance would demonstrate commitment to the local community and ensure appropriate public consideration and process. We therefore respectfully request that the Department of Homeland Security honor our process and apply for a Special Permit for a "forced detention facility."

Participating in the Special Permit process offers significant benefits for both DHS and the community, including:

- Public hearings in front of the Planning Commission and City Council where residents can voice concerns and ask questions;
- Review of the facility's effect on traffic and other issues that may need special standards applied for the facility to better coexist with its neighbors;
- Opportunities for DHS to address community concerns more directly; and
- A transparent process that builds understanding and trust.

A voluntary commitment to local procedures would demonstrate respect for the communities DHS serves, while allowing the federal government to proceed with its mission in a manner that builds public confidence.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and can arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Butler".

Geoffrey Butler, AICP  
Planning Director

cc: Mayor David Holt  
City Manager Craig Freeman  
LaShawn Thompson, Assistant City Manager  
Gabrielle Fernandez, Environmental Protection Specialist, DHS  
Katie Friddle, Principal Planner, OKC Planning Department