



THE CITY OF
OKLAHOMA CITY

Mayor David Holt

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January 21, 2026

The Honorable James Lankford
The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
The Honorable Stephanie Bice
The Honorable Frank Lucas
The Honorable Tom Cole
United States Senate and House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I hope this finds you well.

On December 23, 2025, the City of Oklahoma City Planning Department received a letter stating that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security intends to purchase and occupy a warehouse facility at 2800 S. Council in Oklahoma City. The letter states that this facility will be used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a "processing center." The specific anticipated uses mentioned in the letter appear to describe the operations of a detention facility.

City of Oklahoma City ordinances currently require entities seeking to operate a new detention facility to apply for a special permit from the City. While we understand that the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution may technically exempt DHS from having to seek such a special permit, the ordinance exists for a very good reason. We believe DHS should voluntarily apply.

The placing of a detention facility in our city is a matter of serious local concern. Neighboring residents, businesses, schools and other entities deserve an opportunity to engage in a public process and advocate for the outcome they believe is best for our community.

It has long been the City of Oklahoma City's position that decisions about land use are best made locally. Certainly, any private sector activity of this nature would be subject to our special permit process, which exists precisely to ensure that facilities with significant community impact receive appropriate scrutiny and public consideration.

We recognize that as Members of Congress, you do not have operational control over the actions of DHS. Having said that, we are requesting with this letter that you join us in expressing your support for DHS to apply for a special permit with the City of Oklahoma City. We are also making this request directly to DHS.

Senators and Representatives

Page 2

January 21, 2026

The process to consider a special permit would allow for:

- Public hearings in front of the Planning Commission and City Council where residents can voice concerns and ask questions; and
- Review of the facility's impact on traffic, infrastructure, and neighborhood character; and
- Opportunities for DHS to address community concerns more directly; and
- A transparent process that builds understanding and trust.

Special permits for unique land uses exist for a reason. The people of Oklahoma City deserve to be heard on decisions that will directly affect them. 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 rather than erodes public confidence.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



David Holt
Mayor

DH/bs