



March 17, 2026

Mr. Todd M. Lyons
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Mr. Lyons,

I am writing to request a meeting with federal officials as soon as possible regarding the Department of Homeland Security's recent property acquisition at 6020 West 300 South, specifically for the purpose of hosting a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility. Please respond by Friday, March 27 with times you or your designee can meet with myself and other Salt Lake City officials.

While we are seeking additional information about the ultimate intended use for this building, a large-scale detention facility is inappropriate for this location and does not have the support of Salt Lake City officials.

In a statement released by ICE last week, the agency said it would conduct "community impact studies and a rigorous due diligence process" to ensure there are no adverse effects on infrastructure or utilities prior to purchase. However, DHS has not engaged Salt Lake City regarding its plans for this facility. It is critical to communicate with Salt Lake City plans to operationalize and mitigate the detrimental and numerous community impacts it would create.

Zoning and infrastructure

First, such potential usage changes as this would take an enormous toll on the City's water and sewer infrastructure and capacity. The area's utility system has been built specifically for warehouse use, not high-occupancy residential use, and there are downstream constraints. Our preliminary modeling shows that a large-scale detention facility would likely require sewer line, sewer force main, and sewer lift station improvements to be made offsite. This could lead to permitting concerns from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Union Pacific. While we can only make assumptions without more concrete information, it is clear that the area in question does not have the public utilities infrastructure to serve a large residential population.

A facility of this magnitude, which would likely be accompanied by a significant increase in vehicle trips and deliveries each day, would also put an enormous strain on transportation and local roads in the area. Furthermore, this area is the epicenter of



multiple short- and long-track railroad networks, which would be negatively impacted by an increase in traffic and activity of this degree.

Finally, the property of note is located within an M1 zone, intended to provide an environment for light industrial uses with no significant impact to nearby properties. The zone is not suitable and this building was not built for human habitation for any period of time.

Economic development and impact

This building is located within the Utah Inland Port Authority boundary, an area tasked with the mission of creating generational regional economic growth. The Port is very active with critical economic activity, warehousing, distribution, and rail. If this facility were used as a large-scale detention center, it would have troubling ramifications for neighboring properties and a chilling effect on the potential of this area to thrive as an economic driver of the state. Furthermore, because the facility is now owned by the federal government and is exempt from paying local taxes, local taxing entities will lose more than \$1 million per year in property taxes.

Public safety

Perhaps more vital than any of the aforementioned concerns, however, is that of public safety. Our police, fire, and 911 dispatch departments are already at maximum capacity serving our residents and businesses. A large-scale detention facility could create additional strain on our public safety teams by diverting officers, first responders, and other needed safety resources away from our residents and businesses. It is imperative that we know how DHS plans to staff, secure and protect the facility from a public safety perspective as well as fire prevention/response and emergency medical services.

Public safety is also a significant concern for our state leaders. In December 2024, I received a personal letter from Utah Governor Spencer Cox, Utah Senate President Stuart Adams, and Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives Mike Schultz, which expressed their stakeholders' deep concern about "the escalating public safety challenges in Salt Lake City." In response, we developed a comprehensive Public Safety Plan, which has been highly lauded by our state lawmakers. Implementation of this plan alongside all of our criminal justice partners has made a significant difference in Salt Lake City, and we cannot divert much-needed resources away from addressing homelessness challenges, preventing crime, and responding to calls for mental health and substance abuse concerns.

Thank you for your immediate attention to these concerns. Again, please respond by Friday, March 27 with your meeting availability.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Mendenhall".

Erin Mendenhall
Mayor of Salt Lake City

Cc:

The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senate

The Honorable John Curtis
United States Senate

The Honorable Blake Moore
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Celeste Maloy
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Kennedy
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Burgess Owens
United States House of Representatives