



March 4th, 2026

House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Testimony in Support of HB-7436

My name is Sophia Wright. I am submitting testimony on behalf of AMOR and on my own behalf as a Mental Health Counselor in training in support of Representative Giraldo's bill HB-7436 that would prohibit municipalities from maintaining or entering into contracts with ICE and withdrawing the use of state property for immigration detention.

The bill would require the Wyatt Detention Center to end its current relationship with ICE, which would benefit the entire community. AMOR advocates for a community without the criminalization of immigrants and inhumane detention practices.

This legislation is modeled off of laws that have already been implemented in other states: Illinois (2021), Colorado (2023), Oregon (1987/2021), Minnesota (2023), and Maryland (2021). And this year we aren't alone as New England states proposed bills to close their contracts/detention centers in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York.

The Wyatt Detention Center is a financial failure to the city.

In 1991, the nonprofit Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation (CFDFC) was created to pursue economic development for the City of Central Falls through the ownership of the Wyatt Detention Center. The federal government pays the Wyatt \$180/day per detainee, so there is an undue incentive by investors to maintain or increase the amount of people detained.

The Wyatt has had financial difficulties for years. For nearly two decades the Wyatt has failed to perform its founding purpose: to be a consistent source of income for the city of Central Falls.

The profits of the Wyatt were to be distributed first to pay for its operation, second to the bondholders, and third to the city of Central Falls. And it did so from 1993-2008 with a total of \$5.3 million in impact fees, but after ICE detainees were moved out of the Wyatt due to the death of Hiu Lui "Jason" Ng in 2008, regular payments to the city stopped and it went into receivership in 2009. During COVID the facility *received* tax-payer backed money intended for COVID relief, and it was used for payroll. Again due to the declining population of detainees during COVID, the Wyatt went through financial hardship and lost about \$25,000 a week.

Since the end of regular payments, the CFDFC's last payments to the City were in 2017 (\$133,000) and in 2021 (\$50,000). There have been no payments to the city since.

If a business or school replaced the Wyatt, not only would the city gain property taxes on that institution that it could use for social programs, but it would invite opportunity and investment to the city rather than being a symbol of abuse and cruelty.



A 2024 “Summary of Fiscal Impact” report valued the amount of taxes the Wyatt would have to pay at about \$1.1 million¹. House Bill 7461 asks for 27% of these taxes to be paid to the city of Central Falls (\$284,277), so looking at the past impact fees from 2017 and 2021: they are one-time mere fractions of what they could be bringing in for Central Falls. The presence of the Wyatt eliminates any amount of property taxes the city could earn with a business in its place.

There is no argument for the Wyatt being of economic value to the city of Central Falls and no amount of profit would excuse the existence of a prison known for perpetrating abuse and negligence over the years. **No city should rely on prisons and detention centers as a form of economic development.**

Moreover, the Wyatt leeches off of the funds of families who are experiencing their worst case scenarios. The Wyatt earns money both from the federal payment of \$180/day per detainee; through food, bottled water (\$2), clothes, and more that detainees buy through commissary; and through the cost of sending messages to family or lawyers (\$0.25 per message). One family reported putting a few hundred dollars into the wrong account for their loved one and they weren't able to get their money back.

Officials with the City of Central Falls are limited in how they can advocate for the rights of folks experiencing detention at the Wyatt.

The Wyatt stands today because of a lawsuit investors brought against the City of Central Falls. In 2019, the Wyatt Board reopened the ICE contract, 11 years after the first contract closed due to the death of an immigrant detainee from medical neglect: Hiu Lui “Jason” Ng. After widespread demands to remove ICE from the Wyatt Detention Center, the City elected to initiate the process of ending the contract. Bondholders responded by suing the City of Central Falls: “[...] and the chair of the detention center's board of directors, Joseph Molina Flynn, for their decision to stop receiving ICE detainees into the facility. The company's complaint [...] claimed that removal of ICE detainees from the facility would have a negative effect on the Wyatt's assets and demanded \$130 million in damages. In addition, UMB Bank [sought] to place a temporary restraining order against the Wyatt's city-appointed board, asking to stop it from interfering in the management of the facility.”²

As a result of the temporary restraining order against the city of Central Falls, city officials are no longer allowed to speak out against the Wyatt publicly, for example to condemn practices there, especially if private investors will view that speech as damaging to the operation of their business. **The City of Central Falls is in charge of the Wyatt Detention Facility in name only and the Wyatt is only accountable to its bondholder, whose sole interest is maintaining the Wyatt open and filling beds, not the living conditions there.**

The Wyatt Detention Center has a gross history of medical neglect.

In 2008 Hiu Lui "Jason" Ng, a migrant in the process of getting his green card died in immense pain of liver cancer, and was found to have a broken spine, while detained at the facility due to

¹ [Fiscal Impact Report 2024](#)

² [The Museum Trustee Behind a \\$130 Million Lawsuit to Keep ICE Detainees in Prison | Hyperallergic](#)



medical neglect and cruelty. A legal claim filed on Jason's behalf stated that guards would drag him by his arms and legs because they claimed Jason was only pretending to be sick.

On April 4th, 2020, 60 people detained by ICE at the Wyatt launched a hunger strike to demand safer conditions and their release amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Wyatt staff responded with retaliation by cutting off phone access and placing people in isolation.

The neglectful conditions at the Wyatt Detention Center is an ongoing, urgent issue. In 2025 and 2026, AMOR received reports about hunger and lack of special diets, which they are legally obligated to provide; reports of drinking water causing medical issues; medical neglect, which has resulted in the deterioration of existing medical conditions; theft of identification documents by ICE; harassment; and failure to provide access to legal resources. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests concerning official inspections about the Wyatt show deficiencies in many of these areas in recent years, confirming what we are seeing today. The Wyatt continues to demonstrate its inability to provide adequate and timely access to basic health care to folks in ICE detention and these conditions will continue until we demand transparent oversight and accountability from Wyatt staff or pass this bill. **Even if the conditions inside were perfect, immigrants should be able to await their court decisions from the safety of their home without surveillance, not in prison.**

Mental Health Affects of Detention

As a counselor in training it is also my responsibility to speak to the known negative consequences on folks in detention and their families living in the free world. Mental health professionals have found that "The nature of detention, which as noted often includes human rights violations, separation from family members, and the anticipation of permanent separation resulting from deportation and uncertainty regarding length, is regarded as a major contributing factor to mental deterioration, despondency, suicidality, anger, and frustration among detainees."³ Mental health professionals have long understood that stress occurs as a result of the perceived absence of control, predictability and social support⁴. When stress is perceived to present a danger to the self, and persists over long stretches of time and is extreme, the psychological impact can be extensive. The stress response activates the sympathetic nervous system, shutting down non-essential processes in the body like digestion, reproductive tasks, and even tasks in the body related with the immune system and healing⁵. When stress is chronic these impacts are compounded and result in a weakened immune system⁶. These

³ Brabeck, K. M., Lykes, M. B., & Hunter, C. (2014). The psychosocial impact of detention and deportation on U.S. migrant children and families. *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 84(5), 496–505.

<https://doi-org.ric.idm.oclc.org/10.1037/ort0000011>

⁴ Sapolsky, R. M. (2015). Stress and the brain: individual variability and the inverted-U. *Nature Neuroscience*, 18(10), 1344–1346. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nn.4109>

⁵ Sapolsky, R. M., Lovett, M., Poole, R., Williams, L., Biondo, C., Stanford University, National Geographic Channel (Television station : Washington, D.C.), & National Geographic Television & Film. (2008). *Stress : portrait of a killer* (D. Klagsbrun, Ed.). National Geographic Television. <http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?xtid=42052>

⁶ Douthit, K. Z., & Russotti, J. (2017). Biology of marginality: A neurophysiological exploration of the social and cultural foundations of psychological health. In T. A. Field, L. K. Jones, & L. A. Russell-Chapin *Neurocounseling: Brain-based clinical approaches* (pp. 45-60). Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association.



responses can result in both psychological effects and the deterioration of physical health. Although many folks eventually will be free from ICE detention, in the absence of due process, and under the stress of not knowing when they will be free, stress is considered chronic and as a result everyone in ICE detention is predisposed to possible negative mental and physical health effects that may follow them for the rest of their lives. Families in our community whose loved ones have been detained at the Wyatt report stress and anxiety that touches their everyday lives. Please refer to AMOR's report attached that provides documentation on insufficient mental interventions for detainees experiencing suicidality while in detention at the Wyatt.

Response to a common critique.

A common critique is if this legislation passes, lawyers won't be able to release their clients on habeas corpus petitions because they will be transferred to Massachusetts.

Rhode Islanders at the Wyatt are already being transferred to Massachusetts, as well as to other states in New England and to the South in Texas and Louisiana. Even though ICE has about 110 contracted beds, AMOR has received reports from over 400 individuals, which illustrates that detainees are transferred frequently. It's not okay to hold people in these conditions just so long as they are not transferred elsewhere.

Not everyone has access to legal counsel to be able to petition for habeas corpus: detainees might not have the means or resources to contact a lawyer, and a report to AMOR explained that the phone number provided at the Wyatt for pro bono legal services does not work.

When we have the opportunity to get ICE out of detention centers, we must take it because that is our responsibility in Rhode Island on our route to abolishing ICE everywhere, from all spaces, including from detention centers. Contracting with ICE is not representative of Rhode Island or our values.

ICE detention conflicts with the values of the community.

The City of Central Falls is a community that is 69.1% Hispanic or Latino and 39.4% foreign born.⁷ 69.9% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. **Central Falls is a community shaped by immigrants who are building their lives here in RI.** In fact, a 2019 poll showed that 98.4% of Central Falls residents had negative comments towards the Wyatt.⁸ The children of Central Falls should not be forced to live with the looming presence of a prison across from the field where they play sports after school. Nor should children be subject to the probability of trauma when witnessing the arrest of a classmate or family member.

Conclusion.

⁷ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts - Population estimates, July 1, 2023. \(V2023\)](#)

⁸ [Community Safety Survey in Central Falls indicates 98.4 percent feel negatively towards the Wyatt](#)

*Illinois (2021), Colorado (2023), Oregon (1987/2021), Minnesota (2023), Maryland (2021), New Mexico (2026)



In the past year, we have watched members of our community taken off the streets, torn away from their families and subject to the Wyatt's inhumane practices in detention.

We don't want ICE on our streets, in our schools, churches, courthouses, or detention centers. Detention centers run by corporations and investors will inevitably prioritize profits over human rights and this does not represent our values in the state of Rhode Island.

We urge you to consider these points in support of Representative Giraldo's legislation HB-7436 that would prohibit municipalities from maintaining or entering into contracts with ICE and withdrawing the use of state property for immigration detention.

Sincerely,

Sophia Wright
Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance -AMOR-
sophia@amorri.org
info@amorri.org



Timeline of Payments from the Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation to the City of Central Falls		
Year	Amount	Note
1994 through 2008	\$5.3 million	1994 through 2008, the City received a total of \$5.3 million in impact fees from the Wyatt facility; <i>[Citation 1]</i>
2009		Facility went into receivership due to financial mismanagement and debt halting payments to the city. <i>[Citation 1]</i>
2017	\$133,000	The Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation paid the city a voluntary \$133,000 impact fee in 2017 and another \$50,000 in donations in 2021. <i>[Citation 6]</i>
2019		In 2019 the ICE contract with the Wyatt was reopened. After widespread demands to remove ICE from the Wyatt Detention Center the City elected to initiate the process of ending the contract. Bondholders responded by suing the City of Central Falls for \$130 million in damages
April 2020		Wyatt received \$2.9 million in taxpayer-backed funding, which was used for payroll. According to federal data, 240 jobs were retained. Paycheck Protection Program loans, administered through the federal government via private lenders, were part of the CARES Act, a massive federal rescue package aimed at shoring up an economy battered by coronavirus shutdowns. The Wyatt loan was approved April 6th 2020. <i>[Citation 3]</i>
Dec 2020		"Lombardi said that after the pandemic hit in 2020, the detainee population plunged and Wyatt began losing \$25,000 a week. By December 2020, the accounts payable total had risen from \$500,000 to \$2.3 million." <i>[Citation 7]</i>
2021		\$50,000 CFDFC paid \$50,000 in donations to CF in 2021 <i>[Citation 6]</i>
July 2022		The board of CFDFC requested they start making \$25,000 a month payments to Central Falls
January 2025		January 13, 2025 We have not made any payments to the City, but we will have an agreement at some point that will be beneficial to all parties."

Sources Cited:

1. Special Joint Legislative Commission on the Wyatt Detention Facility, April 25, 2012
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2. Central Falls Detention Center Facility Corporation Board of Directors Meeting Notes, 1/22/2024
<<https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Minutes\4440\2024\486046.pdf>>
3. Watchdog Team: Swarovski Optik, Wyatt prison among R.I. recipients of PPP small business loans (providencejournal.com), 07/08/2020,
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4. Wyatt Facility to Once Again House Ice Immigration Detainees; ACLU Raises Specter of The Death Of Jason Ng, 03/22/2019,
<<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/wyatt-facility-once-again-house-ice-immigration-detainees-aclu-raises-specter-death>>
5. U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts - Population estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)<<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/tablecentralfallscityrhodeisland/PST045223>>
6. "Wyatt creditor takes aim seeking payment for services performed nearly 20 years ago", 07/05/2023,
<<https://rhodeislandcurrent.com/2023/07/05/wyatt-creditor-takes-aim-seeking-payment-for-services-performed-nearly-20-years-ago/>>
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MARCH 2026



REPORT ON ICE DETENTION AT THE WYATT DETENTION FACILITY

CENTRAL FALLS, RI

Dear Community,

This report includes data and excerpts from Office of Detention Oversight inspections at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI since the current ICE contract began in 2019. These inspections reveal an ongoing pattern of negligence, and yet they tell only part of the story.

In our correspondence with people detained by ICE at the Wyatt Detention Facility over the past year, we have heard time and again accounts of ongoing unsafe and unjust conditions. In this report, we lift up the voices of the people directly impacted, who have offered us a fuller picture of the conditions inside the Wyatt.

We ask Rhode Islanders to respond by supporting **Senate Bill S-2278** and **House Bill HB-7436** in the current legislative session to **end ICE detention in Rhode Island**.

In Solidarity,
AMOR Community Response Team

above photo: February 28, 2025 outside the Wyatt

“ I’m asking you if you can do something for us, please help to resolve this problem, because I did my maximum, asked everybody, and still didn’t get the answers.

— Message received February 2026

”

Contents:

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Unsafe Drinking Water

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Harassment and Use of Force

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What You Can Do!

Hunger and Food Service Violations

ICE is required to provide sufficient, safe food for the people they detain. However, AMOR regularly hears from people detained at the Wyatt that they are not receiving enough to eat.

This winter, AMOR has received reports that people who are Muslim and don't eat pork are not given other options and starve.

“ I've been in custody in the Wyatt Detention Facility for more than six months, and since the first day in this jail I haven't eaten meat at all, because my religion is Islam, I can't to eat regular meals, for us it's should be Halal or Kosher (it's a religious diet).

I sent a request to the program director of this facility, and after that I got a meal which they called "Kosher" but it's not real food for humans, there is not any kind

”

of meat. Everything is the same, usually we get some plastic bags without any explanation of what it is. There is not information about ingredients, with the simple words we even don't know what we are eating.

After eating this food we feel very bad. It makes our stomach hurt, and our body feel weak, no energy and power. I think this is discrimination because for regular meals they have a lot a different kinds of food with meat with everything.

I was reading the book of rules for this detention facility. They write there that they have this diet Halal, but they don't provide it for us.

— Message received February 2026

Previous food service violations recorded by the Office of Detention Oversight during inspections of the Wyatt Detention Facility include:

2020

“Nine out of twelve detainees alleged the meals served were repetitive and the portions were small.” (Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2020, page 7)

2021

“Four out of seven detainees stated the meals served were cold or of poor quality and the portions were small.” (Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, May 2021, page 7)

2025

In the first two weeks of March 2025, AMOR received messages from **16 people detained** by ICE who specified that they **would not have enough to eat** without help purchasing food from the Commissary.

“ The food they cook is not enough in size and sometimes I'm still hungry after I already ate, and not having money to buy snacks or order commissary makes life even harder in this place.

— Message received March 2025

”

Unsafe Drinking Water

AMOR has received reports this winter from a number of people detained by ICE at the Wyatt who have said that **the water is making them sick**. They report **stomach aches, nausea, and diarrhea** after drinking it.

They do not have sufficient options outside of the unsafe tap water. We are told that there are only 10-20 bottles of water available each day at the commissary and sometimes several bottles available at unit vending machines, but they cost \$2 each, and there is nowhere near enough for everyone.

As of November 2025, there were 110 people detained by ICE and 643 people detained total at the Wyatt. (Source: Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation Minutes, November 17, 2025)

People detained shared with AMOR experiencing sickness from the tap water at the Wyatt explained the situation and asked for clean water from a nurse and their unit officer. **The Wyatt staff members did not believe them**: They said the filter on the faucet in the common room was changed recently, so they did not believe that the water was bad.

The situation is so dire that some detainees who were able to get ice tried to melt it in empty chip bags, to see if the water from the ice would be a better quality, but it wasn't— it also gave them the same symptoms.

Some of them have gone **3-4 days at a time without enough water or fluids** because of this problem or choose to drink milk to sustain themselves.

Medical Neglect

For many years, there have been alarming reports of medical neglect at the Wyatt. This includes harrowing accounts of the incidents in 2008 that led to the death of Hiu Lui “Jason” Ng due to medical abuse from prison staff. (Source: ACLU Press Release, “Rhode Island ACLU Files Lawsuit On Behalf Of Family Of Wyatt Center Detainee Who Died In Custody”, February 9, 2009)

After this tragedy, ICE canceled its contract with the Wyatt, but entered into a contract again in 2019. Since then, people detained by ICE at the Wyatt have continued to share stories of inadequate medical care and dangerous negligence.

ICE facility inspections by the Office of Detention Oversight show a similar pattern of ongoing deficiencies, especially in relation to medical care.

- Since 2019, almost every inspection showed evidence of **medical staff practicing without appropriate credentials or training.**
- The inspections include multiple reports from people detained who shared that their **requests for medical care went unattended, had a delayed response, or received an inadequate treatment.**
- Most inspections also reported that mandatory health assessments and screenings were not done within the required time frames.
- In March 2023, ODO reviewed three files for people detained who had been identified as at risk for suicide or mental health issues. Despite policies for performing a mental health evaluation within 24 hours and welfare checks every 8 hours, all three went **several days before receiving the appropriate mental health evaluations or welfare checks.**
- In September 2023, the inspection revealed that medical staff were not keeping records of medications issued.

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspections, Wyatt Detention Center, 2019-2024)

Below are a few examples of inspection findings revealing deficiencies in medical care:

2021

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed █ health care credential files and found in █ out of █ files, health care staff did not have valid certifications. Specifically, three health care staff did not have cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid certifications (**Deficiency MC-11⁹**).

ODO reviewed █ detainee medical records and found in █ out of █ records, medical staff did not conduct comprehensive health assessments within 14 days of the detainees' arrival at the facility. Specifically, a health care provider completed health assessments between 16 to 45 days of the detainees' arrival at the facility (**Deficiency MC-27¹⁰**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, November 2021, page 7)

2023

ODO reviewed █ health care staff credential files and found in █ files, no valid professional licensure nor certification for the jurisdiction in which the health care provider practiced and performed duties. Specifically, the license for a licensed practical nurse expired on March 1, 2023 (**Deficiency MC-11⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, March 2023, page 7)

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed █ detainee medical records and found health care providers and officers did not keep written records of prescribed medications issued to or refused by the detainees. Specifically, ODO found in █ out of █ records, no documentation for prescriptions issued to or refused by detainees for 7 out of 31 days; 9 out of 16 days; 7 out of 31 days; and 13 out of 16 days respectively (**Deficiency MC-62⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 8)

SIGNIFICANT SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (SSHSPI)

ODO reviewed one file of a detainee identified by staff as a suicide risk or self-harm during the inspection period and found no evaluation of the detainee completed within 24 hours. Specifically, staff placed the detainee on suicide watch at 1:40 p.m. on August 18, 2023, and mental health staff examined him at 2:30 p.m. on August 22, 2023 (**Deficiency SSHSPI-12⁹**).

ODO reviewed the file of a detainee placed in a suicide-resistant cell on suicide watch during the inspection period and found a mental health provider did not perform welfare checks every 8 hours. Specifically, facility staff placed the detainee on suicide watch on August 18, 2023, and no mental health provider performed any welfare checks until August 22, 2023, the day of the detainee's removal from suicide watch (**Deficiency SSHSPI-22¹⁰**). **This is a repeat deficiency.**

ODO reviewed the file of a detainee placed in a general population housing unit on close observation status during the inspection period and found a mental health provider did not perform welfare checks every 8 hours. Specifically, the facility staff placed the detainee on close observation status on August 22, 2023, and no mental health provider performed a welfare check until August 28, 2023, the day of the detainee's removal from close observation status (**Deficiency SSHSPI-28¹¹**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 8)

“ Many of us get sick and they don't care what happens to us. We report it at the kiosk and they ignore it.
— Message received March 2025

”

Theft of Personal Property by ICE

When someone is deported, they are often left in unstable and sometimes dangerous circumstances. They may be returning somewhere they haven't been in years, where they have no family or community, or may even be deported to a third country where they have never been.

By **failing to return many people's travel documents and personal funds** before deportation, ICE makes it even harder for people who are deported to survive and find stability. Without travel documents such as ID's, people who have been deported have

told AMOR that **it can take weeks or even months for them to get new ID's that are required in order to obtain housing or work.**

Past inspections at the Wyatt reveal some of the issues that have prevented people from accessing their personal property when being deported, and these types of problems persist today.

2020

FUNDS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (F&PP)

ODO reviewed ten detainee files and found five out of ten files had no documentation with detainee signatures verifying the return of funds and personal property (**Deficiency F&PP-1⁷**).

ODO reviewed the facility's detainee handbook and found the handbook did not inform detainees of the procedures for claiming personal property upon release, transfer, or removal from the facility (**Deficiency F&PP-2⁸**)

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2020, page 7)

Harassment and Use of Force

This fall, AMOR received messages from people detained by ICE at the Wyatt reporting an incident of alleged **sexual harassment by Wyatt staff.**

The incident was reported to the officer on duty, but it seems that there was no follow-up— the officer who had committed the harassment remained on duty and the recipient of the alleged harassment was transferred that night or the next morning.

Unfortunately, as with other issues at the Wyatt, this type of mistreatment of people being detained is not new. Past inspections describes other incidents involving use of force and harassment in recent years.

2019

USE OF FORCE (UOF)

Facility supervisors and correctional officers who have direct contact with inmates and detainees wear [REDACTED] in case of immediate or calculated UOF incidents. ODO's review of a calculated UOF incident found the facility correctional emergency response team (CERT) had not continuously video recorded the incident. [REDACTED]

(Deficiency UOF-1¹⁸).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, page 11)

2023

Staff-Detainee Communication: Two detainees stated facility staff verbally abused them, but they did not submit grievances.

- Action Taken: ODO informed facility staff of the alleged verbal abuse by a facility staff member. A facility staff member, not the subject of the allegation, confirmed the allegation and informed ODO she confronted the subject of the allegation and reported the incident to facility leadership. On October 11, 2023 ERO Boston staff informed ODO facility leadership provided the subject staff member with corrective action for his unprofessionalism toward the detainees and they reminded the subject staff member of the importance of always maintaining professionalism while on duty.

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 7)

These reports **do not represent the full picture**. Many harassment and use of force incidents go unreported because people being detained **fear retaliation**, often in the form of being transferred to another detention facility out of state.

Failure to Provide Access to Legal Resources

Detention is a form of obstructing an immigrant's lawful right to have their immigration case fairly heard in a court of law. Immigration detention creates obstacles to

preparing a legal case, including through limited access to lawyers and legal resources. Nevertheless, ICE regulations do have minimum standards for legal access, for example in making available a law library and pro bono attorney numbers. **The Wyatt has a history of denying access to to even these minimum standards of legal resources.**

2019

“ODO interviewed facility staff and found that weekly inspections and **updates of legal materials are not being performed** in order to confirm the good condition and prompt replacement of damaged or outdated law library materials and equipment. Additionally, LexisNexis was not installed on the law library computer the facility maintains in the segregation unit...

“ODO reviewed the facility’s detainee handbook and found the law library section is missing the procedure for requesting legal materials not in the law library and the procedure for notifying a designated employee that law library material is missing or damaged. Additionally, **the facility has not posted their law library policies and procedures** near the law library computer in the segregation unit...

“ODO reviewed WDF’s orientation program and found that although detainees are shown a PREA video in English and Spanish, the facility does not show any other video that outlines facility operation, programs, and services...

“ODO interviewed WDF staff and found **they do not document resolutions of oral grievances in detainee detention files.**”

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, pages 8-9)

2023

ODO interviewed the WDC visitation supervisor, observed WDC legal visitation rooms, and found no posted rules and hours for legal visitation (**Deficiency V-35¹⁶**).

ODO toured the WDC detainee housing unit, observed detainee housing unit postings, and found no posted current pro bono list (**Deficiency V-69¹⁷**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, March 2023, page 9)

JUSTICE

DETAINEE HANDBOOK (DH)

ODO interviewed the WDC classification manager, reviewed 25 detainee detention files, and found in 25 out of 25 files, no documentation of detainees acknowledging receipt of the ICE National Detainee Handbook (**Deficiency DH-9¹⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, pages 8-9)

2025

AMOR received reports from people being detained that the facility has been **limiting people's access to the legal program by arbitrarily deciding who can and cannot attend.**

2026

AMOR received reports from people being detained that the phone number provided at the Wyatt for pro bono legal services does not work.

At the Wyatt Detention Facility, violations of the rights of people being detained has become commonplace. This is unacceptable.

Our community members should not be subjected to the inhumane detention conditions at the Wyatt. While they fight their immigration cases, they should be permitted to remain at home where they can access safe food, safe water, and legal resources, and be treated with the dignity that every person deserves.