

Protection Not Detention Campaign Demands

1

Reunification

That children are reunified within 5-7 days with their families or vetted sponsors, and are guaranteed legal representation at no cost to the child for the duration of any asylum and/or removal proceedings, including appeals, as well as “know your rights” information for both children and their families to prevent detention by ICE at a later time. We further demand that the City take additional concrete steps - to be established in consultation with community stakeholders - to protect family members and sponsors from ICE before, during, and after any minor has reached the family member or sponsor.

2

Closure

That this facility be temporary and closed by August 2nd, 2021, as approved by the City Council vote on April 6th, 2021.

3

Police Presence

That this facility not increase ICE, CBP, or any police/sheriff presence in our communities, and that the City immediately alert the Community Oversight Committee as well as other community stakeholders to any ICE or CBP presence in Long Beach, as well as to any increase in Long Beach Police Department or LA Sheriff Department operations, or private security contracted by these entities. Any contract with any private security company must be publicly posted in the same manner as the contract between the City and DHHS. Any private security personnel must be trained in de-escalation and trauma-informed responses.

4

Transparency and Oversight

Transparency and oversight of all operations of the Convention Center as an “emergency intake site.” This includes that:

- A. The City must make a copy of the contract between the City of Long Beach and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publicly available. The City should publish the contract on its website and also retain a hard copy in a publicly accessible location in City Hall. The City must also translate the contract into the languages under the City’s language access policy. The Long Beach community must know the terms, conditions, and expiration dates of the contracts made between the City of Long Beach and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We must also know the names of the agencies (non-profit, public, and private) who will be responsible for providing resources and services to the children.
- B. The City, led by the Office of Equity, must create a Community Oversight Committee, which shall have the right to visit the Convention Center and report out the conditions therein. This Committee must include 2 members from community based organizations with expertise on immigration, two researchers with expertise on immigration, and four community members-at-large who have been or currently are impacted by immigration policies, as well as two mental health and two child welfare experts.

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Transparency and Oversight (continued)

Transparency and oversight of all operations of the Convention Center as an “emergency intake site.” This includes that:

- C. Regular access (not less than once daily) be granted to community advocates and media to monitor the health and safety of the children in the facility. That legal representatives have unlimited access to the facility.
- D. The City track and publish statistics including the number of children reunited with their families as well as the number transferred to any other facility and the length of stay for each child in this facility.
- E. The City establish a means of reporting abuse by any staff or volunteer at the Convention Center and use City resources to investigate any such allegations.
- F. The City shall ensure that facility staff do not inflict any of the following: room confinement or other isolation, physical discipline, physical restraints, or other physically or emotionally abusive conduct. The City further shall ensure that the facility’s staff do not involve law enforcement in any way in the supervision of children or as a means of discipline. The City shall also ensure that any violation of these prohibitions, any instances of abuse, and any law enforcement presence shall be tracked and reported out immediately.

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Standards of Care

That this facility meet and exceed the standards of care set by the Flores Settlement Agreement and meet and exceed California licensing and congregate care standards.

- A. These standards include greenspace, fresh air, recreation, education, health care, and telephone access.
- B. We also demand language access for all children held in the Convention Center (i.e., culturally appropriate, in-person interpretation and translation for all services and processes, including in indigenous languages).
- C. We further demand that ALL service providers pass the background checks required to work with children in California; are trauma-informed experts or that training is provided to them, and that such providers have a practice in cultural humility that can meet the unique needs of migrant children.
- D. This facility must ensure the safety of all unaccompanied migrant children by strictly adhering to all COVID protocols; by creating safeguards, developed in consultation with experts, against abuse, exploitation, and trafficking; and by strictly following both sets of safety protocols.
- E. That the children be free to participate in extracurricular activities with vetted volunteer groups, including activities outside of the facility.

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Federal Advocacy

That the City **NOT** promote this facility as a replicable model and that the City instead **combat** this new norm that incarcerates children by directing its federal lobbying contractor and City communications to **demand the following of the federal government:**

- A. Rescind the Title 42 border closure and fully restore access to asylum at our borders, including at ports of entry, and ensure that unaccompanied children have immediate and consistent access to legal counsel, child advocates, and interpretation services.
- B. End the practice of holding children in large scale influx facilities, including military bases.
- C. In situations where children arrive without a parent or legal guardian, establish a process with the Department of Health and Human Services at the border to more quickly identify and vet family or sponsors to whom children can be released without the use of influx facilities, and provide transportation in non-CBP, non-gated vehicles.
- D. In cases where a sponsor cannot be quickly identified within 72 hours, prioritize small scale, non-restrictive settings for unaccompanied children in facilities licensed for childcare and run by trusted community-based non-profits (those which have no record of abuse or other serious complaints), and provide transportation to these facilities in non-CBP, non-gated vehicles.
- E. Ensure that “emergency intake sites” do not become the norm or the long-term solution to process immigrant children; that they do not become long-term, large-scale facilities; and that they do not lead to the transfer of children to other influx facilities.

#ProtectionNotDetention

*For more information or to join the campaign,
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