

ATTESTATION

Re: Berks County Residential Center White Paper Proposal & Letter of Support

I, Christopher George, hereby declare, pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, that the following statements are true and correct based upon my personal knowledge, information and belief:

1. I am an Assistant Field Office Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement and Removal Operations (“ICE/ERO”), which is a component of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”).
2. I serve in this capacity for the Philadelphia Field Office and the Berks County and Pike County Sub-Offices.
3. As part of my duties, I am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations relating to the case management of noncitizens detained at the Berks County Residential Center (“BCRC”) on behalf of ICE/ERO.
4. As part of my duties, I also prepared the February 25, 2021 White Paper Proposal for Additional Bed Space at the BCRC that is the subject of the instant Right-To-Know appeal(s), and of which I have knowledge.
5. Berks County is not in possession of the White Paper Proposal, having never been provided a copy of the proposal, as it is a document that was prepared for internal review and discussion within ICE/ERO.
6. Per the terms of the White Paper Proposal, Letters of Support relating to the White Paper Proposal, including the Letter of Support at issue in this appeal, are to be submitted as an attachment to, and to be considered part of, the White Paper Proposal.
7. The White Paper Proposal includes the following clause:

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 522). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized DHS official. No portion of this document should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

8. Accordingly, both the White Paper Proposal and Letter of Support are classified as U/FOUO documents and are to be released on a “need-to-know” basis, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a federal law.

9. Berks County was instructed by ICE/ERO that the Letter of Support is part of the White Paper Proposal and, therefore, its release is governed by the Freedom of Information Act and a FOIA request would be needed.
10. Due to the foregoing, Berks County did not have authority, or permission from ICE/ERO, to release the Letter of Support.

I verify, under penalty of perjury, that the facts contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

March 9, 2021

Signature:



Christopher George
Assistant Field Office Director
Philadelphia Field Office
Berks and Pike County Sub-Offices
Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement