

News Release

ICE to suspend the use of Varick Facility to house detainees

NEW YORK — As part of its major overhaul of the immigration detention system, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will suspend its detention operations at the Varick Federal Detention Facility—a step taken in line with ICE’s commitment to prioritizing health, safety and uniformity among facilities while ensuring security, efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

Detainees currently housed at Varick will move to another facility in the New York metropolitan area at half the operating cost. The new facility provides for outdoor recreation space and visitation services, which were lacking at Varick.

“This is a prime example of how ICE is looking for smarter, more effective ways to enforce our immigration laws,” said ICE Office of Detention and Removal Operations Acting Director David Venturella. “We are committed to enhancing the security and efficiency of our detention facilities while prioritizing the health and safety of detainees.”

ICE expects to suspend the housing of detainees at the Varick Street facility by the end of February. The current administrative offices and workspace located at the Varick facility and the processing center in the detention facility will remain open.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. For more information, visit: www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.