



Homeland
Security

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Via electronic mail

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Re: Number Contact-DHS-16-0502

Dear Mses. Navarrete, Realmuto, and Gaubeca:

On February 2, 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) received information from you regarding hold room conditions at short-term detention facilities maintained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the southern border region. Specifically, you alleged that, despite the issuance of CBP's National Standards for Transport, Escort, Detention and Search" (TEDS Standards) on October 5, 2015, the temperatures of some CBP detention facilities are excessively low. Thank you for submitting your concerns.

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, CRCL reviews and assesses information concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees and officials of DHS. CRCL also reviews allegations that DHS employees, programs, or activities failed to accommodate an individual's disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

CRCL has conducted multiple onsite investigations based on previous complaints we received raising concerns about cold temperatures and other conditions for individuals in CBP custody, including stations in multiple U.S. Border Patrol sectors along the southern border. When necessary in those investigations, CRCL addressed the issue of appropriate temperature for hold rooms. CRCL worked closely with CBP in the development of the TEDS standards and is monitoring their implementation.

After reviewing the information you provided, CRCL has recorded it in our database. This will allow us to track the issues you raised in order to identify potential patterns of civil rights or civil liberties allegations within our jurisdiction. CRCL will take no further action on your information at this time.

For more information about CRCL's roles and responsibilities, please visit our website at www.dhs.gov/crcl.

Thank you again for contacting CRCL. In the future, please contact CRCL if you have a civil rights and civil liberties complaint involving DHS.

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security