

## **Frequently Asked Questions regarding the proposed Detention Facility**

### **1. How did Crete first find out about the detention center project?**

In late 2010, the Village of Crete was approached by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to gauge the village's interest in responding to a Statement of Objectives (SOO) developed by the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide a facility for ICE in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

### **2. What was the Village's response?**

As with most potential economic development projects, and in our continuing efforts to diversify the tax base, the Village agreed to submit their interest by participating in a due diligence process for entering into an Interagency Agreement to be drafted in the future to potentially provide this facility. The Village understood that a positive reception of our response would result in further discussions about this potential project. In November of 2010, the Village, in conjunction with CCA, submitted a response to the Statement of Objectives (SOO) and in March of 2011, attended an oral presentation of the response made by CCA to representatives of ICE.

### **3. When was the Village notified that it was the selected community and what information did the notification state?**

In June of 2011, the Village received a letter from Matt Marshman, Contracting Officer for the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) informing the Village and CCA that they have been "tentatively selected" as the location for the proposed facility. The letter stated that ICE would "contact the Village in the near future to discuss the next steps in the process". The letter further states that if the parties are unable to come to a negotiated agreement, ICE reserves the right to consider other service providers.

### **4. When did the Village first notify the public of the project?**

A press release was developed in July of 2011 and sent to the SouthtownStar Newspaper, the Northwest Indiana Times Newspaper and the Kankakee Daily-Journal announcing the tentative selection of the Village by ICE regarding the project. Shortly thereafter, articles appeared in each of the above mentioned newspapers.

### **5. What is the Village's understanding of the scope of the project?**

According to the Statement of Objectives (SOO), ICE is "requiring a wholly new generation of detention facilities uniquely suited to ICE's civil detention authority. The new facilities must feature innovative and cost-effective designs and new approaches to construction materials, staffing and operations. They must also provide easy access to legal services, abundant natural light, ample outdoor recreation, contact

visitation, noise control, freedom of movement, programming opportunities consistent with detainee demographics, and state-of-the art medical facilities. The facilities must be supervised, be safe and secure, prevent unauthorized entry and egress and also provide appropriate custody and care of ICE detention population.” The secure facility should be a 500-700 bed facility, as required to meet the local demand in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

**6. Were other communities being considered for the detention center?**

Yes. It is our understanding that ICE received a number of additional responses from other communities that would serve the Chicago Metropolitan Area. We were not informed of the number or location of these communities. We do know that in an article in the Kankakee Daily Journal, a site was submitted by Kankakee County. We also know that a site in Oregon, IL was submitted.

**7. Has this project been approved by the elected officials of the Village of Crete?**

No. Nothing has been presented for review or approval by the elected officials. In an article dated January 12, 2012 by Phil Kadner in the SouthtownStar Newspaper, ICE officials indicate “they have not yet signed any agreements or committed to any long-term obligations”.

**8. Based upon what is currently known, and should the project move forward for consideration, what will be the relationship between the Village, ICE and CCA in this process?**

According to the process established by ICE, an intergovernmental agreement would be established between the Village and ICE regarding the facility and the provision of detention services. The Village would enter into an agreement with CCA to fulfill the provisions established in the agreement between the Village and ICE. CCA will be responsible for the construction, ownership and operation of the facility.

**9. Have these agreements been negotiated and do they exist?**

No. The Village has not yet been contacted by ICE regarding the next steps in the process. No negotiations regarding these agreements have been held; subsequently no draft agreements currently exist.

**10. Where is the proposed location for this facility?**

CCA has identified a parcel of property located in an area south of Burville Road, north of New Monee Road and east of Main Street, near the southern end of Hartmann Drive. This parcel is within the Village limits of Crete and is currently zoned I-1 Limited Industrial. Public, quasi-public and governmental buildings and

facilities are permitted uses in the I-1 Limited Industrial Zoning District. The property is under contract for purchase by CCA.

**11. What types of information will be considered prior to any approvals being granted?**

Besides the content of the various agreements that need to be drafted for approval, the Village will gather and evaluate information on CCA and their operations, the effects of these types of facilities on property values, effects of these types of facilities on future economic development trends, job creation, effects of the proposed project on Village services, economic impacts to the Village, effects of the proposed project on Village infrastructure (i.e. sewer, water, roads, etc.), the need for any on or off-site infrastructure improvements the project may be required to make, engineering and drainage issues, other environmental issues, site layout including ingress and egress to the site, on-site circulation, building appearance and site appearance, including landscaping, and any additional information that may be required for approval.

**12. Will public information meetings be held prior to approval?**

Yes. The Village Board has indicated public informational meetings will be held when/if this project moves forward and prior to any approvals being granted. Residents will be notified through the local media, local cable channel and our website, [www.villageofcrete.org](http://www.villageofcrete.org). Please be sure to sign up for the "News Flash" feature at our website by clicking the "Notify Me" button on the left hand side of the homepage.

**13. Is there a timeline for approval?**

No. The Village has not yet been contacted by ICE regarding the next steps in the process, therefore no timeline for approval exists. When/if we are contacted by ICE regarding the potential project, and it moves forward for consideration, a timetable regarding project approval developed in September of 2011 anticipates that it could take anywhere from 5 to 9 months, depending on how the process proceeds.