



News Release

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Molly Smith, Public Information Officer

308-345-1200 (option 3) or pio@mccookne.org

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Local Leaders Continue to Seek Answers

McCook, Neb. – Officials from Red Willow County, the City of McCook, and the McCook Economic Development Corporation remain committed to transparency and community advocacy as plans for a new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in McCook continue to unfold.

Since the initial announcement, local leaders have attempted to engage with representatives from the Nebraska Department of Corrections and Governor Pillen's office. Contact has been made with limited answers.

Among the concerns raised by local officials are:

- **Public Safety & Security** - What security measures will protect McCook and Red Willow county residents? Who handles safety outside the facility? Will the State of Nebraska allocate more resources to the Red Willow County area?
- **Community Impact** - How will the facility affect local infrastructure, emergency services, and housing? What impact will this have on local schools and public health services?
- **Facility Operations** - Will both men and women be housed? Will the footprint of the facility be enlarged to account for additional detainees?
- **Transportation** - How will detainees be transported to and from the facility? What type of aircraft will be used? How will the increased number of flights impact current general aviation usage?

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Jesse McVean, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, met with county and city officials to discuss local concerns. During the meeting, officials posed the above questions, which McVean committed to forwarding to the appropriate representatives at the State of Nebraska. He also provided contact information to local leaders for follow-up.

Members of the public with questions for the State of Nebraska are encouraged to contact Dayne Urbanovsky, NDCS Director of Strategic Communications, at dayne.urbanovsky@nebraska.gov.