

# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BRADFORD COUNTY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Sheriff Gordon Smith  
**DATE:** April 15, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Mandatory Operational Requirements and Compliance Standards:  
Douglas Building Facility Transition

Honorable Commissioners,

As we move forward with the potential transition of the Douglas Building into a designated ICE detention facility, my primary concern remains the safety of our community, the security of the site, and the integrity of our infrastructure. To ensure this project meets the rigorous demands of federal detention standards while remaining a responsible neighbor to those who live near the proposed facility and the City of Starke, the following items are classified as **non-negotiable priorities**.

### 1. Regulatory Approvals and Environmental Clearances

Before any physical work commences or further obligations are made, the project must satisfy the oversight of both federal and state authorities:

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** No phase of this transition shall move forward without the express written approval and site authorization from DHS.
- **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):** All potential environmental impacts must be mitigated, and the facility must receive full clearance regarding the DEP concerns and documented issues.

### 2. Utility Infrastructure & Waste Management

The anticipated occupancy load requires a robust upgrade to the current waste management system to prevent municipal interference or environmental hazards.

- **City of Starke Connections:** Full integration with city water and sewage is required.
- **Duplex Submersible Pump Station:** The facility must utilize a commercial-grade duplex submersible pump station. This redundancy ensures that if one pump fails, the secondary unit maintains operational continuity.