

Proposed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Facility Pine Island, Minnesota

In light of the recent media coverage as well as some misinformation that is circulating in the public sphere, the City would like to take the opportunity to provide some facts, as we understand them, pertaining to the potential Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Facility being considered in Pine Island:

- **The project is highly conceptual at this point**—There are no plans developed; No site selected; No requests for proposals submitted at the federal, state, or local level—there is nothing tangible for the Pine Island City Council to scrutinize at this point
- **The facility is not a prison**—The facility is not a prison. It is a detention center whereby a non-citizen who has been adjudicated for criminal offenses or detained for violation of immigration status are held awaiting an administrative hearing before an immigration judge prior to deportation. Pine Island was advised that the average length of stay at this facility is 30 days prior to deportation and in most cases, it is much shorter
- **There is no timeline for this project**—Because there have been no RFPs submitted and no parameters discussed regarding this project between the federal government and the private company/developer for this project, Pine Island has not been provided with a timeline as to when this project may take place and therefore no guarantee it will move forward
- **Pine Island is one of six locations being considered**—There is no guarantee that the City of Pine Island will be selected for this project. There are five other locations being considered that we know of, all with unique characteristics relevant to the project
- **This project would be a private venture between a private land owner and a private company**—No publicly owned land is being considered for this project. The development, if it moves forward, will involve a private land owner and a private company. The City of Pine Island will have very little span of control other than zoning and utilities. In fact, legally, we may not be in a position to refuse the project if it moves forward. However, the City Council will seek public input when it is appropriate to do so and they will scrutinize the areas which are under the Council's purview
- **Resolution of support for the project**—The City Council, at the June 19th, 2018 meeting, approved a resolution of support for the project. The Council was asked to provide a resolution of support for the project by the private developer as a means to assess viability, this does not mean that the project is a certainty. Indeed, the reason for approval of the resolution keeps Pine Island as a viable option as a potential site for this project. Also, it provides the opportunity for the Council to further scrutinize the project and the potential impacts for the community. The Council, indeed City Government, should be afforded the opportunity to study any potential development that comes

their way and the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback when it is appropriate—however, as stated earlier, this is highly conceptual at this time with no clear timeline for completion.

The City recognizes the highly emotional public discourse that is taking place all over the nation and beyond. Immigration has been thrust into the spotlight due to policy decisions at the highest levels of government, which are always subjective depending on one's political viewpoint. It is important to understand that the City Council does not influence national policy, least of all immigration policy, which is squarely within the purview of the President of the United States and Congress.

The Pine Island City Council will do its due diligence regarding this proposed project and will scrutinize it accordingly where it is legally appropriate and the public will be afforded the opportunity to provide input in the process when it is appropriate prior to any decision being made. This is true with any potential development that takes place within the City that will have a significant impact on the community.

The City welcomes input at any time—whether it is for this project or not—and the Council strives to be as transparent and accommodating as possible in order to provide good governance to the community.

On behalf of Mayor Rod Steele and the Pine Island City Council,

David Todd

City Administrator

