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January 17, 2025

Joseph D. McDonald, Jr., Sheriff  
Plymouth County Correctional Facility  
26 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360 (electronic copy)

Re: Complaint-Based Investigation with Air Testing – Plymouth County Correctional Facility

Dear Sheriff McDonald:

In response to alleged complaints and in accordance with 105 CMR 451.401 and 105 CMR 451.408, the Department of Public Health (Department) Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) conducted a complaint-based unannounced investigation with air testing (investigation) at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility (HOC) on January 13, 2025. This letter summarizes the complaint allegations and the results of our investigation.

### **Complaint Allegation**

- During the week of January 6, 2025, inmates housed in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) housing units DN3 and E3 allegedly began experiencing cold air being distributed from the ventilation system in their cells resulting in uncomfortable living conditions.
- Inmates are not given additional clothing when requested.

### **Investigation**

The Department conducted temperature measurements in all six ICE housing units, including the two with complaints, as well as housing units C3, DS3, FS3, and FN3, to confirm the minimum recommended requirements were met pursuant to 105 CMR 451.330. Several ambient air temperature samples were taken from inside cells, tiers, and common areas.

The investigation was conducted by Steven Hughes and Nicholas Gale, EHRS; Also present were Kevin DiMarzio, Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) of Operations; Ralph Mattivello, Assistant Superintendent; Timothy Baptiste, Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer; and Jennifer Clark, Operations Captain.

### **Overview**

Section 1 identifies any deficiencies identified during the investigation.

Section 2 provides information on submitting a Plan of Correction for any identified deficiencies.

Section 3 identifies the areas in which the air temperature measurements were taken, along with the results of those measurements.

Section 4 outlines observations and recommendations related to the facility investigation.

### **SECTION 1: Deficiencies**

The Department did not observe deficiencies during this investigation.

### **SECTION 2: Plan of Correction**

The Department did not observe deficiencies; therefore, no Plan of Correction is required.

### **SECTION 3: Air Temperatures**

The Department visited the following locations to collect air temperatures using a *TSI Q-Trak XP*, which was calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications:

Date	Time of Day	Testing Location	Temperature (°F)
1-13-25	9:15 AM	Outside – Beginning of Inspection	35.7
<b>Housing Unit C3</b>			
1-13-25	9:40 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	71.1
1-13-25	9:42 AM	Cell C309, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	70.9
1-13-25	9:43 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	70.7
1-13-25	9:44 AM	Cell C409, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	71.8
1-13-25	9:45 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Left-Side Middle	72.3
1-13-25	9:46 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Front	73.6
1-13-25	9:47 AM	Cell C429, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	72.7
1-13-25	9:47 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Right-Side Middle	73
1-13-25	9:48 AM	Cell C327, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	71.6
<b>Housing Unit DS3</b>			
1-13-25	9:51 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	71.4
1-13-25	9:51 AM	Cell DS304, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72
1-13-25	9:52 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	71.6
1-13-25	9:53 AM	Cell DS404, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	72.7
1-13-25	9:54 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Middle	72.3
<b>Housing Unit DN3</b>			
1-13-25	9:55 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.7
1-13-25	9:56 AM	Cell DN304, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.9
1-13-25	9:56 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	73
1-13-25	9:58 AM	Cell DN404, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	73.4
1-13-25	9:58 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Middle	73.6
<b>Housing Unit E3</b>			
1-13-25	10:01 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.9
1-13-25	10:02 AM	Cell E309, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	73.2
1-13-25	10:02 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	73.2
1-13-25	10:05 AM	Cell E409, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	74.1
1-13-25	10:05 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Left-Side Middle	74.1
1-13-25	10:06 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Front	75.2
1-13-25	10:08 AM	Cell E429, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	74.8
1-13-25	10:08 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Right-Side Middle	74.8

1-13-25	10:09 AM	Cell E326, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	74.3
<b>Housing Unit FS3</b>			
1-13-25	10:13 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.3
1-13-25	10:13 AM	Cell FS304, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.5
1-13-25	10:14 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.1
1-13-25	10:15 AM	Cell FS404, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	72.7
1-13-25	10:15 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Middle	72.7
<b>Housing Unit FN3</b>			
1-13-25	10:17 AM	Day Room, Front, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	72.3
1-13-25	10:17 AM	Cell FN304, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	71.8
1-13-25	10:18 AM	Day Room, Rear, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	70.9
1-13-25	10:19 AM	Cell FN404, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	71.4
1-13-25	10:19 AM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tier, Middle	71.4
1-13-25	10:23 AM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Main Hallway, South End	71.4
1-13-25	10:24 AM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Main Hallway, North End	68.5
1-13-25	10:46 AM	Outside – Conclusion of Inspection	41.7

#### **SECTION 4: Observations and Recommendations**

1. On January 10, 2025, the Department received a number of email and phone complaints from concerned individuals and organizations regarding the lack of heat for ICE inmates in housing units DN3 and E3. The Department contacted the HOC to validate these concerns and discovered the facility had received a similar complaint that week. HOC staff conducted an immediate inspection of all housing units, and determined minimum temperatures were being met. Staff implemented routine temperature monitoring protocols for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ICE housing units to ensure the heat did not fall below minimum recommended requirements.
2. While on site on January 13, 2025, the Department inquired about the facility's policy for distributing clothing to inmates and was informed that standard uniforms are supplied to all incarcerated individuals and that optional clothing can be purchased, which meets the minimum requirements within 105 CMR 451.210. EHRS recommends formalizing a written clothing policy and sharing it with the Department.
3. The Department recommends frequent monitoring of all indoor air temperatures to ensure that heat does not fall below minimum recommended requirements.

Sincerely,



Steven Hughes  
Director, Division of Environmental Health  
Regulations and Standards