



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

January 28, 2019

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Office of the Governor

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting an independent inspection of the health and safety conditions at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) located in Tacoma, Washington. You have requested that our office immediately investigate reports of urgent health and safety concerns, including inadequate access to healthcare for detainees.

Our office is currently investigating the death of Mergensana Amar, an asylum seeker who was being held at NWDC. We are also considering an inspection of the NWDC as we plan our next round of unannounced inspections of facilities housing ICE detainees. Because our inspections are unannounced, we do not publicize or confirm our inspection locations in advance. We will, however, report publicly on all inspections that we conduct after they take place. Our reports will include recommendations to ICE for corrective action if warranted by our findings.

Should you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Erica Paulson, Assistant Inspector General, External Affairs, at (202) 981-6000.

Sincerely,

John. V. Kelly
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Inspector General

Office of Inspector General

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



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