MEMORANDUM

Date: July 8, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **Request of Catholic Community Services to provide a vacant facility at the County Juvenile Justice complex**

The office of the Bishop, Diocese of Tucson in a letter dated July 3, 2019 has requested County assistance in providing vacant facilities at the County Juvenile Justice Complex to assist Catholic Community Services by providing a respite and processing center for individuals seeking asylum.

For some time, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol have been releasing asylum seekers into the faith based nonprofit community. Catholic Community Services now operates a central facility used for this purpose, the Benedictine Monastery on Country Club Road. This facility is scheduled to close near the end of this month. Catholic Community Services have examined dozens of replacement sites to provide necessary services. One site reviewed was County vacant facilities at our Juvenile Justice Complex. According to the letter from the Bishop this site is deemed to be superior to all others and is desired for their use to provide humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers.

I have asked our staff and the County Attorney to develop a one year renewal annual nominal lease ($100 per year) with Catholic Community Services to provide their faith based humanitarian services at our Juvenile Justice Complex Facility, specifically units 700, 800 and 900. These facilities will have the capacity to house approximately three hundred asylum seekers and accommodate fifty volunteers per shift. This lease will be presented to the Board and consideration at the August 6, 2019 meeting. I will be recommending approval of the lease.

We have reviewed these facilities and believe that with minimal improvement they can provide the shelter, food and other services required for Asylum Seekers. Catholic Community Services will be the operator of this service using our Juvenile 700, 800 and 900 facilities.

These facilities are available and are presently vacant due to the aggressive and successful alternatives to detention program and implemented by the Juvenile Court. The County will pay for building, operating and maintenance cost which will include utilities, food service through the Juvenile kitchen and laundry service through the juvenile laundry.

The County will seek reimbursement for these costs as well as repayment for initial capital cost to make these facilities safe and efficient for the processing requirements of Catholic Community Services.

Reimbursement will be from the Humanitarian Aid funding of Operation Stonegarden (DHS/FEMA Bulletin No. 436) requested by the County and will cover the period of August 2019 through December 31, 2019. A detailed Humanitarian Aid reimbursement request will be provided to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for processing on July 11, 2019.

We are pleased to be able to provide this assistance to Catholic Community Services and other faith based nonprofits who are providing humanitarian aid to asylum seekers released by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement as well as the Border Patrol.

CHH/mp

Attachments

c: Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger, Bishop of Tucson
Marguerite "Peg" Harmon, Chief Executive Office, Catholic Community Services
The Honorable Kyle Bryson, Presiding Judge, Superior Court
The Honorable Kathleen Quigley, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration

Roman Catholic
Diocese of Tucson
Office of the Bishop
P.O. Box 31, Tucson, Ariz., 85702 ▪ 520-838-2500 ▪ Fax: 520-838-2590

JUL 3 8:38A

July 3, 2019

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County
130 W. Congress St., 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry,

For the past several months, Catholic Community Services, along with their faith-based and community partners, has been searching for a replacement respite and travel processing facility for asylum seekers deposited in Tucson by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agencies. The facility currently in use, the former Benedictine Monastery on County Club Road, is privately owned and scheduled for reconstruction by its owner beginning in August. The owner has been extremely gracious and generous, allowing the community to use the Monastery since January of this year.

Our local community has been responding to this humanitarian challenge since 2014. There is no sign that the DHS drop-offs of asylum seekers, primarily from Central America, is going to abate. If the Tucson and Pima County community do not respond and provide aid to these desperate people then they will be left on the streets of Tucson to fend for themselves. We have no choice but to provide the much-needed aid, which is a moral imperative of our faith.

The team working on this new location determined that any replacement facility needed to meet the following criteria:

- Large enough to provide safe, sanitary overnight quarters initially for at least 200 people, with the potential to increase to 300 people assisted on a daily basis.
- Capacity for at least 50 volunteers per shift to provide humanitarian aid and travel processing.
- Immediately available and in good condition, not requiring extensive or expensive rehabilitation before guests can be accommodated.
- Affordable leasing terms for a minimum of one year with availability for the length of time DHS intends to release asylum seekers in the Pima County region.

- A centralized location to reduce the commute time for volunteers, and in proximity to both the Tucson International Airport and the downtown bus station in order to allow guests to make their way to their final destination.

After reviewing dozens of potential sites, the team working on this relocation has determined that the northern unused sections of the Pima County Juvenile Justice Complex on East Ajo Way meets every criterion above and is by far our best option. We are requesting that Pima County lease this facility to Catholic Community Services for a nominal fee.

As we make this request we want to emphasize that the asylum seekers are in the United States legally and have been released by a DHS agency to Catholic Community Services or another partner in order to remain in the US while their asylum claim is processed. We also wish to note that very few of the asylum seekers remain in Tucson. The overwhelming majority are traveling to other parts of the country where they have family or sponsors awaiting them.

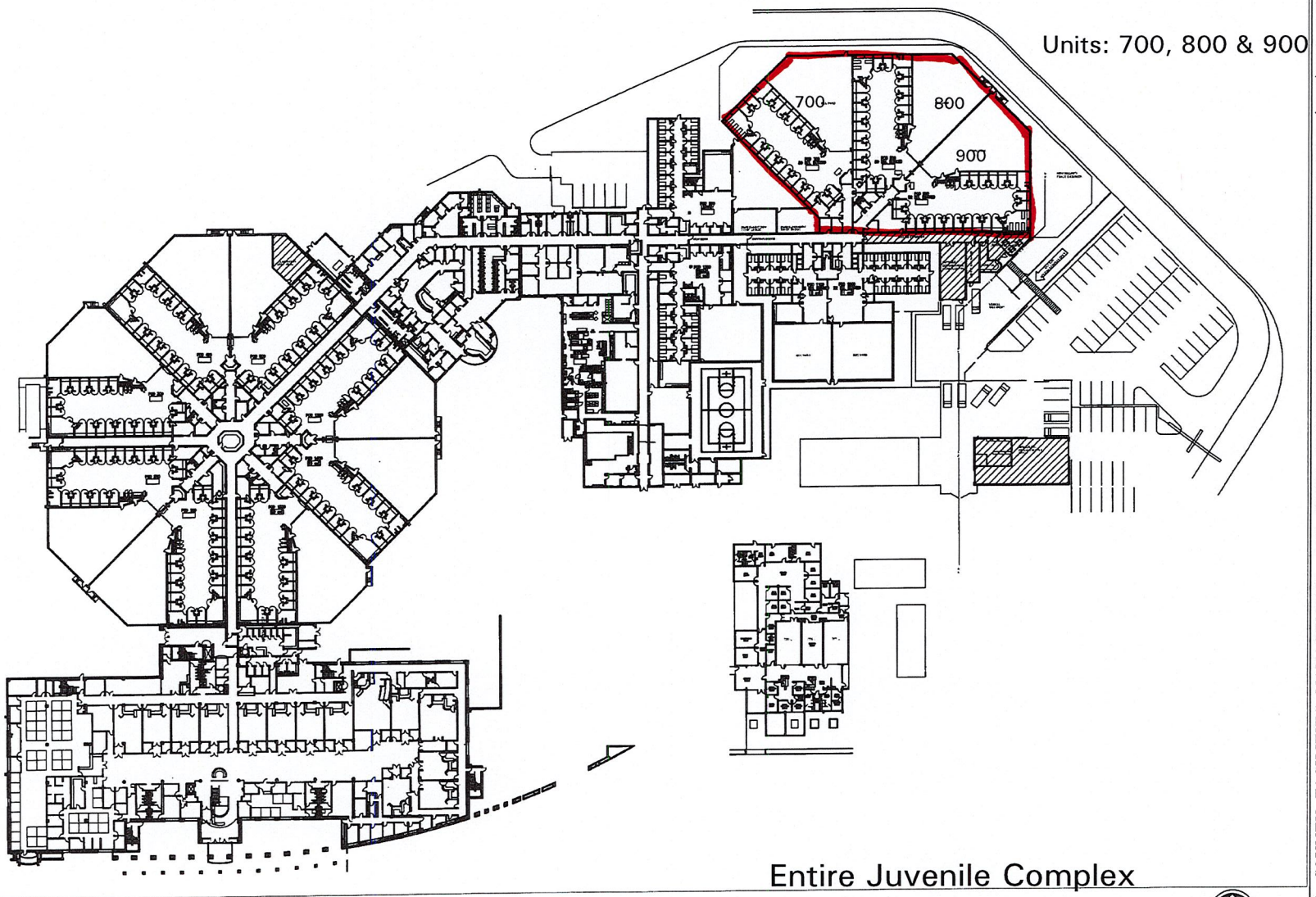
We join with our other Christian, Jewish and Muslim brethren as we practice the call of our faiths to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and welcome to the stranger. This opportunity to be a part of Tucson's greater community, faith communities, and government agencies to meet the needs of those who come to us in the midst of what is for many a life-or-death crisis is one we hope you will answer with an unambiguous and generous yes.

As always, please be assured of my prayers along with my gratitude for your service to our community.

Very Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

+ Edward J. Weisenburger

Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Tucson



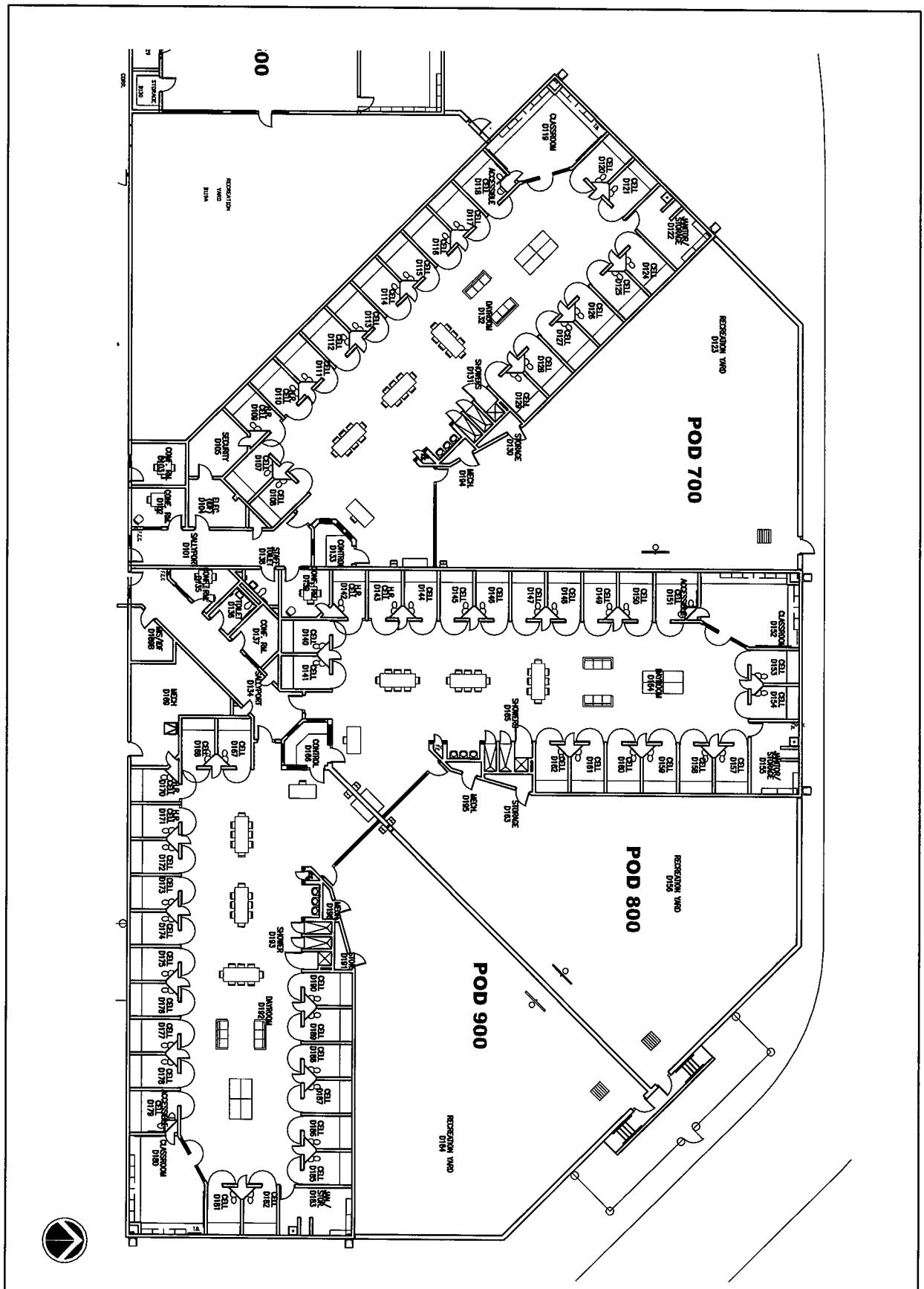
1 FLOOR PLAN

NTS

PIMA COUNTY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, 150 WEST CONGRESS, TUCSON ARIZONA 85701 (520)724-3085

PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
2225 E AJO WAY
TUCSON, AZ

REVS: DATE
DRWN BY:
CKD BY:
DATE:
SCALE:
SHEET NO:
OF
W.A. NUMBER



PIMA COUNTY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, 150 WEST CONGRESS, TUCSON ARIZONA 85701 (520)740-3085

SHEET NO: 1 OF 1 W.O. NUMBER Proj #	DRAWN BY: DP DATE: 7-3-19 SCALE: 1" = 20' Rev Date	**JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER** **2225 E AJO WAY** **TUCSON, AZ**	**PODS 700-900 FLOOR PLAN**