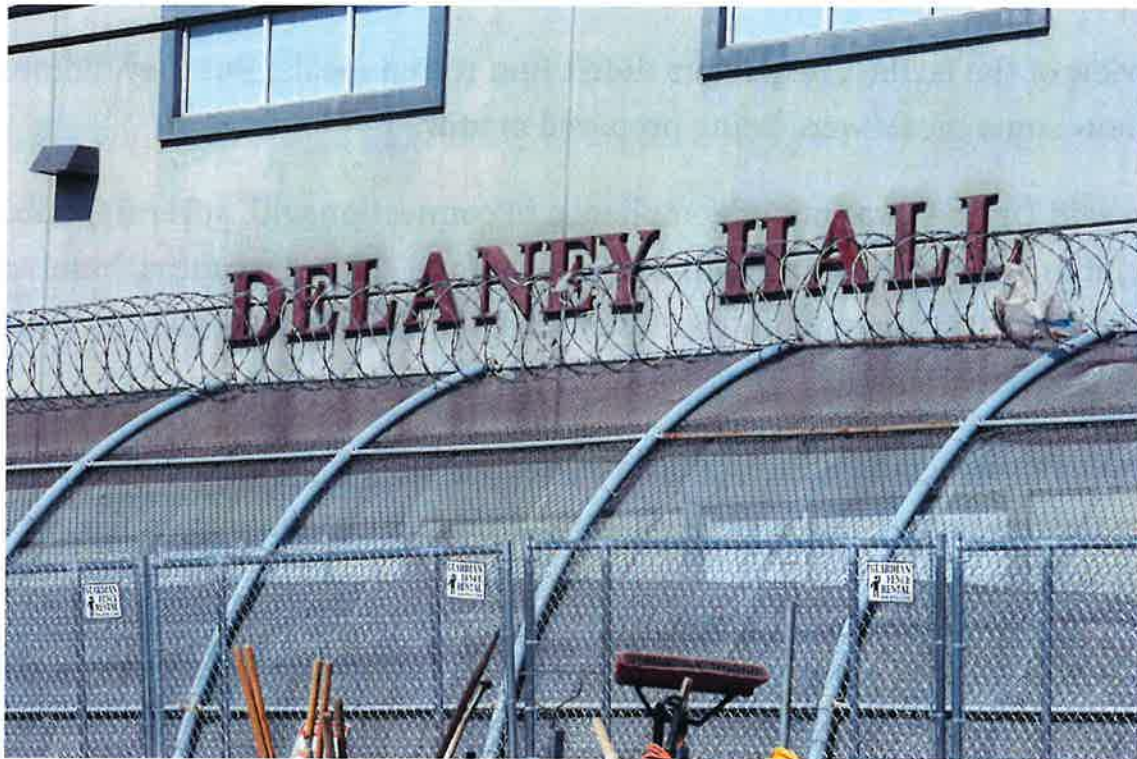


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NEWS

Inspectors finally got into the kitchen at ICE's Delaney Hall. Here's what they found.

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Delaney Hall in Newark, where New Jersey is seeking a court order to give state health inspectors greater access. Chris Pedota | For NJ.com



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Other areas did not present any red flags.

“Food is received weekly (as they do not have a lot of storage) from distributors and all boxes in storage were dated with receiving date,” the report said.

“The production kitchen was observed to be fully equipped with commercial-grade industrial food service equipment to support its food service operations.”

HVAC covers and storage areas were clean, inspectors said. And the kitchen serves Halal, Kosher and vegetarian options.

Delaney, which houses up to 1,000 people, is operated by The GEO Group, a Florida private prison operator, under a 15-year, \$1 billion contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as part of the Trump administration’s sweeping immigration crackdown.

The state, which was barred from a wider inspection of the detention center, filed a lawsuit last week seeking a court order to provide greater access to the facility following reports by advocates about the food, as well as complaints of rampant medical neglect.

“From the time Delaney Hall began operating as an immigration detention center, public reporting has continued to reflect widespread concerns about the conditions inside the facility,” the state attorney general’s office said in its lawsuit.

Because of the continuing refusal to allow state inspectors full access to the site, New Jersey Health Commissioner Raynard E. Washington said the food services report was an incomplete view of what was happening at Delaney Hall.

“Without complete access to the facility to conduct a proper health inspection under our authority under the law, it is impossible to form an accurate assessment and make a reliable evaluation about the health conditions,” he said. “In terms of what we did see, we have real concerns about food cooling and reheating procedures and having a knowledgeable in charge to ensure proper procedures are followed.”

Even more concerning, he added, “is that we were not able to see the housing and medical units, where we were denied access.”

The commissioner said the department takes its mission to safeguard the health and well-being of everyone in the state seriously. And in reference to the lawsuit now playing out in federal court, he said “we will continue to do everything in our power, including exercising our legal authority, to do so.”