




MEMORANDUM

Date: September 7, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Further Clarification on the Emergency Procurement Related to Contract Ratification for Jot Properties, LLC**

This item related to an emergency procurement under limited competition to provide hotel shelter services for COVID-19 positive asylum seekers in the amount of \$2,008,000. Jot Properties LLC was the low bidder and awarded the contract.

What was not stated during the discussion by the Board of Supervisors on this subject was that the County has been in the process of providing shelter for asylum seekers since March 2021. The facility used until recently is Casa Alitas. Casa Alitas continues to provide transitional housing for asylum seekers for a period of 24 to 48 hours. The major constraint associated with Casa Alitas is due to COVID-19 spacing requirements and can only be used as a congregate shelter for approximately 60 individuals.

Releases of asylum seekers occur on a daily basis from the US Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The releases are sporadic, ranging from 1 to as many as 160 individuals in one day. This has taxed shelter capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions at Casa Alitas; therefore, another location is necessary.

In addition, since March 2021 until September 3, 2021, there have been 8,420 asylum seekers processed, which means they were released from federal agencies to Casa Alitas. Of those, 292 individuals were positive for COVID-19 or approximately three percent of this total. The key to ensuring COVID-19 does not spread significantly in congregate housing is to provide individual housing during the quarantine period. This is the primary purpose of the Jot Properties, LLC contract.

A three percent infection rate among the population at risk is not significant.

Because these individuals are transitory, which means they may only be in transitional housing for a few days, they are offered COVID-19 vaccinations. To date, 1,792 individuals have taken advantage of this resource.

Jot Properties' facility is ideally suited for COVID-19 isolation housing as well as overflow housing for sporadic and unpredictable releases from US Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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Finally, it has been documented and restated by Supervisor Rex Scott that all costs are paid for by the federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terri Spencer, Director, Procurement Department