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News Release

USCIS PROVIDES SHELTER DURING HOSTAGE SITUATION

Pulaski Application Support Center Welcomes Displaced Children

CHICAGO – Just before noon today, employees at the Pulaski Application Support Center (ASC) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) watched as police officers chased an armed man down the street and into a local daycare center. Shortly thereafter, children and daycare employees started filing out of the center onto Pulaski Avenue. That was the opportunity needed for the USCIS employees to offer some much needed emergency assistance.

“Children and adults were standing on the sidewalk in kind of a daze,” said Andre Jones, the acting ASC manager. “Given what we had just witnessed, we figured the kids would be safer in our waiting room.”

The quick thinking USCIS employees ushered the children and adults inside to the safety of the Pulaski ASC waiting room where they were secure and entertained. All the unexpected visitors were reunited with their families and loved ones following their temporary refuge in the Department of Homeland Security facility.

“Today’s actions at the Pulaski Application Support Center are a perfect example of the professionalism of USCIS employees throughout the Chicago District,” said acting District Director Aphrodite Loutas. “Day-in and day-out, our employees are making a difference. I’m pleased that local USCIS employees were able to respond to this need in our community.”

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation’s security.