

OFFICE OF
Plymouth County Sheriff

MIKE VAN OTTERLOO, SHERIFF
C.A. BARTOLOZZI, CHIEF DEPUTY

451 14th Ave. NE • Le Mars, Iowa 51031-8826 • PHONE: (712) 546-8191 • FAX: (712) 546-8796
www.plymouthcountysheriff.com

November 26, 2014

Received & Inspected

DEC 04 2014

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: WC Docket No. 12-375 Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ICS)

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division, I wish to inform you of the support we have for reasonable inmate calling rates and fees and we appreciate the efforts from the FCC to protect inmates and their families from paying excessive rates. However, of concern to us is the potential elimination of commission payments which are a vital part of my budget to ensure inmates have unlimited use of the telephones, which we provide as a privilege. I am aware of recent rulings in Alabama that require reasonable rates and funding fees, but also allow commissions to jails and prisons. I am urging the FCC to adopt similar rules.

These are just a few of the costs we incur in offering inmate phone services to our inmates:

- Maintaining phones and monitoring maintenance of phones
- Handling US Marshal inquiries regarding contract inmate phone calls, compliance and reporting
- Storing of calls that are used for court
- Prosecuting or disciplining inmates for crimes committed while using the inmate phones and visitation phones
- Indigent calling
- Free calls to public defenders, consulates, embassies and private counsel, ombudsmen
- Free calls to facility commissary providers for ordering
- Free booking calls
- Transporting inmates to phones and visitation phones
- Listening to calls. After implementing caps on rates, fees and single-payment products, inmate calling will most likely double resulting in doubling the costs of listening to calls and managing inmate calling privileges.
- Providing call recordings to court
- Litigation resulting from inmates or the public regarding use of the phone system

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I would also like to mention that a few inmate phone providers proposed that the FCC eliminate commissions, I feel they are looking out for their own best interest and not that of the inmate and jails.

Thank you for your time and understanding my concern involved in offering phone services to our inmates. Obviously, also keeping the taxpayers of Plymouth County in mind.

Sincerely,



Mike Van Otterloo

Sheriff, Plymouth County