

## **Comment from Illinois Campaign for Prison Phone Justice**

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**Appendix A:**

**Spreadsheet Summary of Phone Contracts in 23 Illinois Counties**

**Illinois Counties-Jail Phone Contract Information-23 Counties**

County	Capacity	Provider	Local/ min	Intra LATA/ min	Intrastate/ min	Connection fees	Extra charges	Commission	Cost of 15 minute call
<b>Adams</b>	120	Securus						40%	
Collect			\$0.27	N/A	N/A	\$3.55			\$7.55
Pre-paid			\$0.27	N/A	N/A	\$3.55			\$7.55
Debit			\$0.27	N/A	N/A	\$3.15			
<b>Boone</b>	150	Securus						40% debit, 55% collect	
Collect			N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.35			
Pre-paid			N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.35			
Debit			N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.35			
<b>Champaign</b>	308	Inmate Calling Solutions							
Collect			\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.17		\$6.95 funding fee	0%	\$2.55
Pre-paid			\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.17		\$6.95 funding fee	0%	\$2.55
Debit			\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.17		\$6.95 funding fee	0%	\$2.55
<b>Cook</b>	10,000	Securus					\$6.95 funding fee, \$2.49 bill statement, \$10 replacement card, \$25 account closure fee	47.60%	
Collect			\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18				\$2.64
Pre-paid			\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18				\$2.64
Debit			\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18				\$2.64
<b>DeKalb</b>	89	RSS Telcom						60%	
Collect			N/A	N/A	N/A				
Pre-paid			N/A	N/A	N/A				
Debit			N/A	N/A	N/A				
<b>DuPage</b>	988	Public Communications Services							
Collect			\$0.27	\$0.27	\$0.27	\$3.00		57%	\$7.05
Pre-paid			\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$2.50		57%	\$6.40
Debit			\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30			53%	\$4.50
<b>Henry</b>	128	Securus						50%	
Collect			N/A	N/A	N/A				
Pre-paid			N/A	N/A	N/A				
Debit			N/A	N/A	N/A				
<b>Kane</b>	640	Inmate Calling Solutions						79%	
Collect			\$.35-.25	\$.35-.25	N/A	\$3.95	\$6.95 funding fee		\$9.20-\$7.70
Pre-paid			\$.35-.25	\$.35-.25	N/A	\$3.95	\$6.95 funding fee		\$9.20-\$7.70
Debit			\$0.50	\$0.50	N/A		\$6.95 funding fee		\$7.50
<b>Kankakee</b>	700	Securus						55% (57% ADP+100)	
Collect			\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$2.75			\$6.88
Pre-paid			\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$2.75			\$6.25
Debit			\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$2.75			\$6.25
<b>Kendall</b>	205	Securus						62%	
Collect			N/A	N/A	N/A				

	Pre-paid		N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Debit		\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$3.35		\$8.60
<b>Lake</b>	840	Securus					\$5.95 transaction fee, \$25 minimum	75%
	Collect		\$0.07	N/A	\$0.07	\$2.71		\$3.76
	Pre-paid		\$0.07	N/A	\$0.07	\$2.71		\$3.76
	Debit		\$0.00	N/A	\$0.10	\$2.71		\$4.21-\$2.71
<b>Macon</b>	290	Consolidated Communications						
	Collect		N/A	N/A	N/A			68.50%
	Pre-paid		N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			70%
<b>McHenry</b>	650	Inmate Calling Solutions						
	Collect		\$0.07	\$0.10	N/A	\$2.71		68.50% \$4.21-\$3.76
	Pre-paid		\$0.07	\$0.10	N/A	\$2.71		68.50% \$4.21-\$3.76
	Debit		\$0.07	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$2.71-\$2.50		68.50% \$4.21-\$3.76
<b>McLean</b>	205	Securus						
	Collect		\$.24-\$.22	N/A	\$0.30	\$3.35		54.70% \$7.75-\$6.95
	Pre-paid		\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$3.35	\$7.00 funding fee	54.70% \$10.85
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			54.70%
<b>Peoria</b>	420	GTL						
	Collect		N/A	N/A	N/A			57%
	Pre-paid		\$0.15	\$.35-.23	N/A			57% 2.25 flat
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A	2.25		57%
<b>Sangamon</b>	315	Pay Tel					\$9.95 processing fee, min \$25; online charges \$5.95, \$15 min; no charges if use money order	
	Collect		\$0.89	\$0.89	N/A	\$3.99		45% first year, 50% thereafter \$17.34
	Pre-paid		\$0.50	\$0.50	N/A			45% first year, 50% thereafter \$7.50
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			
<b>St. Clair</b>	434	Securus						
	Collect		N/A	N/A	N/A			68%
	Pre-paid		N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			60.55%
<b>Tazewell</b>	226	Securus						48%
	Collect		N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Pre-paid		N/A	N/A	N/A			
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			
<b>Tri-County</b>	236	Securus					\$3.95 billing statement, \$2.99 wireless connection	55% (3 year), 61% (5 year)
	Collect		\$3.55	N/A	N/A			\$3.55
	Pre-paid		\$3.55	N/A	N/A		\$4.95 processing fee	\$3.55
	Debit							
<b>Vermillion</b>	400	Securus						
	Collect		N/A	N/A	N/A			48%
	Pre-paid		N/A	N/A	N/A			48%
	Debit		N/A	N/A	N/A			48%
<b>Whiteside</b>	129	Securus						

Collect			N/A	N/A	N/A			40%
Pre-paid			N/A	N/A	N/A			30%
Debit			N/A	N/A	N/A			
<b>Will</b>	1035	Securus						
Collect			\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$3.00		70% \$5.70
Pre-paid			\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05			70%
Debit								70%
<b>Winnebago</b>	1212	Public Communications Services						61%
Collect			\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$3.00		\$6.75
Pre-paid			\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$2.00		\$5.75
Debit			\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$1.00		\$4.75

**Appendix B-**

**Sangamon County:**

**Contract Excerpt Showing Highest Rate in the State for a 15 Minute Phone Call**

**SCHEDULE A  
COMMISSION SCHEDULE  
&  
INITIAL FEE SCHEDULE**

Pay Tel agrees to pay Customer compensation for Inmate Telephone Service based upon 45 (%) percent of adjusted gross revenue on all completed calls the first year and 50 (%) percent of adjusted gross revenue each year thereafter with the exception of Interstate calls due to FCC regulation (*Inmate Calling Report and Order and FNPRM2*), in which no commission will be paid on.

Initial fee schedule:

Collect Calls

Local	\$3.99	Connect	\$0.89 per min
Intralata	\$3.99	Connect	\$0.89 per min
Interlata	\$3.99	Connect	\$0.89 per min
Interstate	\$5.00 flat fee for up to twenty (20) minute call		

Prepaid Collect Calls (PPC), Debit and Calling Card

Local	\$0.00	Connect	\$0.50 per min
Intralata	\$0.00	Connect	\$0.50 per min
Interlata	\$0.00	Connect	\$0.50 per min
Interstate	\$4.20 flat fee for up to twenty (20) minute call		

International rates are per minute and vary per country. International collect calls are not allowed.

Pay Tel will provide a 24/7/365 call center for inmates, friends and family to handle complaints, answer questions and set up accounts. The call center will accept Visa and MasterCard with a minimum charge of \$25.00 and a \$9.95 processing fee. Friends and family can mail a money order to our corporate address to put money on accounts with no minimum or processing charge.

Pay Tel will provide 24/7/365 online transactions for friends and family to set up and put money on accounts. Online will accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover with a minimum of \$15.00 and a \$5.95 processing fee. Friends and family can mail a money order to our corporate address to put money on accounts with no minimum or processing charge.

Rates do NOT include Federal, State, and/or local taxes or regulatory fees. Pay Tel will notify the County, in writing, of any proposed increases or decreases in the rates charged.

All rates and commissions above will take effect upon the activation of the new Nexus Inmate Telephone System.

Commission checks are to be mailed to the following address:

ATTN: Jail Superintendent  
Sangamon County Jail  
1 Sherriff's Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

**Appendix C:**

**Champaign County: Contract excerpt showing cheapest collect call**

**Exhibit C – Call Rates**

The following rates apply to all call types from all Service Locations:

<b>Callin Rates</b>		
<u>Call Type</u>	<u>Per Call Charge</u>	<u>Per Minute Charge</u>
Local	\$0.00	\$0.17
IntraLATA	\$0.00	\$0.17
InterLATA	\$0.00	\$0.17
Interstate	\$0.00	\$0.17
International	\$0.00	\$0.50

*NOTES: Domestic interstate rates apply for calls to U.S. territories including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. All non-U.S. destinations are rated as international.*

*Call rates shown do not include local, county, state and federal taxes, regulatory fees and the below listed billing/funding fees:*

Bill Statement Fee:	\$2.49
Funding Fee:	\$6.95
Refund Fee:	waived

**Appendix D:**

**Peoria – Contract excerpt showing cheapest local pre-paid call**

## RATES

LOCAL							
		DAY		EVENING		NIGHT/WEEKEND	
MILES	INITIAL MINUTES	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTES	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTES	ADDT'L MINUTE	
All	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	
<b>FLAT RATE for 15-minute Call: \$2.25</b>							
INTRALATA / INTERLATA							
		DAY		EVENING		NIGHT/WEEKEND	
MILES	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	
1-10	\$0.26	\$0.23	\$0.26	\$0.23	\$0.26	\$0.23	
11-22	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.27	\$0.26	
23-55	\$0.29	\$0.27	\$0.29	\$0.27	\$0.29	\$0.27	
56-124	\$0.32	\$0.31	\$0.32	\$0.31	\$0.32	\$0.31	
125-292	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.34	
293+	\$0.37	\$0.35	\$0.37	\$0.35	\$0.37	\$0.35	
<b>IntraLATA Operator Surcharge: \$2.25</b>							
<b>InterLATA Operator Surcharge: \$2.50</b>							
INTERSTATE							
		DAY		EVENING		NIGHT/WEEKEND	
MILES	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	
All	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.69	
<b>Operator Surcharge: \$3.50</b>							
INTERNATIONAL							
		DAY		EVENING		NIGHT/WEEKEND	
MILES	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDT'L MINUTE	
All	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.89	
<b>Debit Call Operator Surcharge: \$4.50</b>							
<b>** International calls can only be completed on a debit basis **</b>							

**Appendix E:**

**McLean County – Contract excerpt showing complex schedule of rates**

Local (LO) Initial Minutes: 1 Additional Minutes: 1 Surcharge \$ 3.35

DAY			EVENING			NIGHT		
Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate
0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159
10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446
23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259
56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878
125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165
293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331

Intralata\Intrastate (8A) Initial Minutes: 1 Additional Minutes: 1 Surcharge \$ 3.35

DAY			EVENING			NIGHT		
Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate
0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159
10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446
23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259
56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878
125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165
293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331

Intralata\Interstate (JA) Initial Minutes: 1 Additional Minutes: 1 Surcharge \$ 2.90

DAY			EVENING			NIGHT		
Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate
0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159
10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446
23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259
56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878
125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165
293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331

Interlata\Intrastate (8B) Initial Minutes: 1 Additional Minutes: 1 Surcharge \$ 3.35

DAY			EVENING			NIGHT		
Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate
0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159	0-10	0.2446	0.2159
10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446	10-22	0.259	0.2446
23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259	23-55	0.2735	0.259
56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878	56-124	0.3023	0.2878
125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165	125-292	0.3308	0.3165
293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331	293-9999	0.3454	0.331

Interlata\Interstate (JO) Initial Minutes: 1 Additional Minutes: 1 Surcharge \$ 3.95

DAY			EVENING			NIGHT		
Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate	Rate Mileage	Initial Rate	Each Additional Rate
0-9999	0.89	0.89	0-9999	0.89	0.89	0-9999	0.89	0.89

**Appendix F:**

**Lake County- Contract excerpt of Securus \$2.50 charge for 15 minute debit card call**

#2

**EXHIBIT A  
(REVISED – Effective February 11, 2014)**

**Phone and Video Fees and Rates, Administrative Fees and Commission Rates**

**Calling Rates**

<b>Tariff type</b>	<b>Rate Basis</b>	<b>First Minute and Connection Fee</b>	<b>Per Minute Charge</b>
Local	Collect	\$2.71	\$0.07
	Prepaid Collect	\$2.71	\$0.07
	Debit Card	\$2.50	\$0.00
	Debit	\$2.50	\$0.00
Intralata	Collect	\$2.71	\$0.07
	Prepaid Collect	\$2.71	\$0.07
	Debit Card	\$2.00	\$0.10
	Debit	\$2.00	\$0.10
Intrastate	Collect	\$2.50	\$0.24
	Prepaid Collect	\$2.50	\$0.24
	Debit Card	\$2.25	\$0.20
	Debit	\$2.25	\$0.20
Interstate *	<i>Collect</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.25</i>
	<i>Prepaid Collect</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.21</i>
	<i>Debit Card</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.21</i>
	<i>Debit</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.21</i>
International	Debit Card	\$3.00	\$1.00
	Debit	\$3.00	\$1.00

**Commission**

Inmate Phones	75%*
Video Visitation	20%

**\*Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Agreement, in accordance with Federal Communications Commission 47 CFR Part 64 [WC Docket No. 12-375; FCC 13-113] – Rates for Interstate Calling Services - effective February 11, 2014, no commission shall be paid on revenues earned through the completion of interstate calls of any type placed from the Facility(s).**

**Appendix G:**

**Kendall County – Contract excerpt showing the highest debit rate**

# Debit Calling Notice

Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ prepaid calling cards will transition to debit calling on the Securus phone system. At that time each inmate will be assigned a unique 6 digit PIN (same as the Stellar PIN) which is associated with your debit calling account. This 6 digit PIN will be required for both collect and debit calling.

To begin making debit calls you need to purchase phone time through the Stellar Commissary (Item 6). You determine how much you'd like to purchase and as frequently as you'd wish. The money is transferred from your commissary account to your calling account in near real time. To make a debit call simply listen to the voice prompts, enter your PIN and the system will state the amount of money in your calling account. Domestic and international phone numbers can be dialed, subject to facility policy.

Prepaid calling cards will continue to be sold until the inventory is depleted.

All sales are final. At release or book out, your remaining balance is transferred back to your commissary account.

## Phone Menu Changes

COPY

DIALING INSTRUCTIONS	
PRESS	*1* for English *2* for Spanish
PRESS	*1* Collect Call *2* Debit Call *3* Crime Tip *4* Prepaid Calling Card
ENTER your 6 digit PIN (This PIN is the same as the Commissary PIN.)	
FOLLOW the voice prompts to complete call.	
(PROCESSING CALL MAY TAKE UP TO 25 SECONDS) CALLS ARE SUBJECT TO MONITORING AND RECORDING	

## Debit Calling Rates

\$3.35 Connect Charge + 35¢/minute

Length of Call	Call Cost	Length of Call	Call Cost	Length of Call	Call Cost
1 minute	\$ 3.70	6 minute	\$ 5.45	11 minute	\$ 7.20
2 minute	\$ 4.05	7 minute	\$ 5.80	12 minute	\$ 7.55
3 minute	\$ 4.40	8 minute	\$ 6.15	13 minute	\$ 7.90
4 minute	\$ 4.75	9 minute	\$ 6.50	14 minute	\$ 8.25
5 minute	\$ 5.10	10 minute	\$ 6.85	15 minute	\$ 8.60



SECURUS™

**Appendix H:**

**Map provided by Securus of county phone service contracts in Illinois**



**Appendix I:**

**Lake County-Contract excerpt showing kickback guarantees**



EXHIBIT 1

FIRST AMENDMENT  
TO

AGREEMENT #12193 INMATE PHONE AND VIDEO VISITATION SYSTEM FOR LAKE COUNTY

This FIRST AMENDMENT ("First Amendment") is effective as of February 11, 2014 ("First Amendment Effective Date") and amends and supplements that certain Agreement #12193 by and between Lake County, Illinois ("Lake County" or "Customer") and Securus Technologies, Inc. ("Contractor", "Provider", or "Securus"), dated February 21, 2013 (the "Agreement").

WHEREAS, in accordance with Federal Communications Commission 47 CFR Part 64 [WC Docket No. 12-375; FCC 13-113] - Rates for Interstate Calling Services ("FCC Order"), effective February 11, 2014, Contractor and Lake County agree to modify the calling rates charged under the current Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Effective February 11, 2014, the Calling Rates table set forth in Exhibit A to the Agreement shall be modified to reflect that the interstate call rates shall not exceed the rate caps set forth in the FCC Order.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Agreement, in accordance with Federal Communications Commission 47 CFR Part 64 [WC Docket No. 12-375; FCC 13-113] - Rates for Interstate Calling Services - effective February 11, 2014, no commission shall be paid on revenues earned through the completion of interstate calls of any type received from the Agreement.
3. Further, the Minimum Annual Guarantee ("MAG") set forth in the Securus Master Services Agreement A004643, attached as Exhibit B to the Agreement, is hereby revised to read as follows:

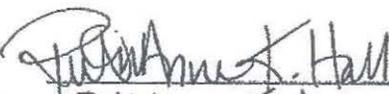
Minimum Annual Guarantee ("MAG"). Customer's annual total commission payments from all calls will not fall below \$500,000.00 during the first year and will not fall below \$441,765.20 during the second year. For each year thereafter, upon the mutual agreement of both parties, Provider will adjust the MAG upward or downward to reflect eighty percent (80%) of earned commissions in the prior twelve (12) months plus or minus the difference between the prior year's MAG and earned commissions (or upon such other formula as the parties shall mutually agree). Therefore, if at the end of a given contract year, the Customer's earned commission is greater than the MAG for that year, the next year's MAG will be adjusted upward—i.e., eighty percent (80%) of earned commissions plus the difference between the prior year's MAG and earned commissions. If, at the end of a given contract year, the Customer's earned commission is less than the MAG for that year, the next year's MAG will be adjusted downward—i.e., eighty percent (80%) of earned commissions minus the difference between the prior year's MAG and earned commissions.

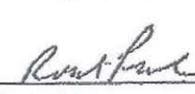
4. Except as expressly amended by this First Amendment, all of the terms, conditions and provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

EXECUTED as of the First Amendment Effective Date.

Lake County, Illinois

Securus Technologies, Inc.

By:   
 Name: Ruthanne K. Hall  
 Title: Purchasing Manager  
 Date: 2/11/14

By:   
 Name: Robert Pickens  
 Title: Chief Operating Officer  
 Date: 2/7/14

Please return signed amendment to:

14661 Dallas Parkway  
Sixth Floor  
Dallas, Texas 75264  
Attention: Contracts Administrator  
Phone: (972) 277-0300

**Appendix J:**

**Macon County- Contract excerpt showing signing bonus**

**MACON COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION  
APPROVING INMATE TELEPHONE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, This Inmate Telephone Services Agreement ( the "Agreement") is made by and between Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. ("CCES") dba Consolidated Communications Public Services, Inc. ("CCPS"), a Delaware corporation and Macon County Jail ("Facility") located at 333 South Franklin Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523.

**WHEREAS**, CCPS desires to provide Customer with local, Intralata, Interlata and Interstate inmate telephone service at Macon County Jail;and

**WHEREAS**, Customer desires CCPS to provide such service.

**WHEREAS**, CCPS agrees to increase commission payments of 5% for debit cards in addition to the Regular Commission payments, Consolidated will provide the Macon County Sheriff's Department with a signing bonus of \$30,000.00.

**WHEREAS**, Consolidated will provide the Macon County Sheriff's Department with a \$20,000 equipment fund for the purpose of buying weapons and equipment to assist with the public safety of the department.

**WHEREAS** , the Justice Committee met on August 22, 2013 and the Finance Committee met on September 3, 2013 and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Macon County Board that it hereby approves the attached agreement between Macon County Jail and Consolidated Public Services, Inc. that will remain in effect until agreement is terminated.

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall become effective upon the adoption thereof.

**PRESENTED, PASSED, APPROVED** this September 12, 2013.

AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NAYS \_\_\_\_\_

MACON COUNTY BOARD  
MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ATTEST:

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen M. Bean, Clerk for the  
County Of Macon, State of Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Dunn, Chairman of the Macon County  
Board

**Appendix K:**

**Kankakee County-Video contract excerpt with commission incentive for increasing jail population**

\*The following Commission percentage is contingent upon Customer's implementation of all products and payment methods described herein, and such changes in commission will take effect on the first day of the month following the implementation of all products and the Provider's receipt of written notice by the Customer. Notice must be signed by a person who has binding authority for the Customer and a copy delivered to:

**SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**14651 DALLAS PARKWAY, SIXTH FLOOR**  
**DALLAS, TEXAS 75254**

Commissions are paid in one-month arrears and are not subject to retro-active payments or adjustments for notice delays. Should the Customer fail to implement all such products and payment methods, the commission percentage will remain at 55% Gross.

Facility Name and Address	Type of Call Management Service	Commission Percentage	Revenue Base for Calculation of Commission	Payment Address
Kankakee County Jail 400 E. Merchant Street Kankakee, IL 60901	SCP	*57%	GROSS	Kankakee County Sheriff's Dep't. 3050 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901
Jerome Combs Detention Center 3000 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901	SCP	*57%	GROSS	Kankakee County Sheriff's Dep't. 3050 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901

\*The following Commission percentage is contingent upon the Customer's implementation of all products and payment methods described herein and upon the Customer's estimated Average Daily Population ("ADP") count increasing by 100 or greater (that is, when the ADP count reaches 750 or greater). Such changes in commission will take effect on the first day of the month following the implementation of all products, the Customer's ADP reaching 100 or greater, and the Provider's receipt of written notice by the Customer. Notice must be signed by a person who has binding authority for the Customer and a copy delivered to:

**SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**14651 DALLAS PARKWAY, SIXTH FLOOR**  
**DALLAS, TEXAS 75254**

Commissions are paid in one-month arrears and are not subject to retro-active payments or adjustments for notice delays. Should the Customer fail to implement all such products and payment methods and reach an ADP of 100 or more, the commission percentage will remain at 57% Gross.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Provider shall have the right throughout the Initial Term and any Renewal Terms of this Agreement, but not more often than once per calendar year, to fully audit or examine any and all information pertaining to the Customer's average daily population.

Facility Name and Address	Type of Call Management Service	Commission Percentage	Revenue Base for Calculation of Commission	Payment Address
Kankakee County Jail 400 E. Merchant Street Kankakee, IL 60901	SCP	*59%	GROSS	Kankakee County Sheriff's Dep't. 3050 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901
Jerome Combs Detention Center 3000 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901	SCP	*59%	GROSS	Kankakee County Sheriff's Dep't. 3050 Justice Way Kankakee, IL 60901

**CENTRALIZED NET CENTRIC, VOIP, DIGITAL TRANSMITTED CALL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Secure Calling Platform User Interface.** We will provide you with the Software regarding the Secure Calling Platform Interface ("S-Gate User Interface") which may be used only on computers and other equipment that meets or exceeds the specifications in the chart below, which we may amend from time to time ("Compatible Equipment"), for a total of licensed users as specified in the attached Customer Statement of Work. Customer represents that (i) it will be responsible for distributing and assigning licenses to its end users; (ii) it will use the SCP User Interface for lawful purposes and shall not

**Appendix L:**

**Cook County- Contract excerpt show ancillary fees of \$2.49 for billing statement;  
\$6.95 funding fee**

3. CLEARLY DETAILED FEES: The parties agree that the following list contains all fees charged by the Contractor which may be added to a called party's bill or paid by the calling or called party (including those associated with establishing/funding/closing pre-paid collect accounts) for detainee telephone calls from the CCDOC:

- (i) Monthly Billing Statement fees: Billing statement fees are defined as fees tariffed by Contractor and charged to called parties for processing collect calls on a LEC telephone bill. A one-time per month billing statement fee of \$2.49 applies to Traditional Collect Accounts if one or more collect calls are accepted. No fee is assessed if no collect calls are accepted, and no billing statement fee is assessed on AdvanceConnect or Direct Bill Accounts. Contractor may charge the aforementioned \$2.49 fee for LEC collect calls only.
- (ii) AdvanceConnect funding fees: Prepaid collect/debit fees are defined as fees imposed on called parties who set and/or fund a prepaid collect/debit account with Contractor to accept calls. The funding fee is \$6.95, and there is no account set-up fee and no refund fee. The Contractor agrees that no time limit will be applied to refunds on such accounts and will clearly communicate the aforementioned terms to AdvanceConnect users. Contractor may charge the aforementioned \$6.95 fee for AdvanceConnect calls only.
- (iii) Monthly Wireless Administration Fee of \$1.99. Contractor may charge such monthly fee when a CCDOC call recipient requests that a detainee be permitted to call a wireless telephone number. Contractor may charge the aforementioned \$1.99 fee for AdvanceConnect and Direct Bill calls only.
- (iv) Where required by federal, state or local law, the Contractor may also charge the following taxes and regulatory fees (collectively, "Regulatory Fees"). Contractor may charge the below-described Regulatory Fees on all calls, except free calls, when required by law:
  - a. Interstate Regulatory Recovery fees: Interstate Regulatory Recovery fees are defined as fees tariffed by Contractor and charged to called parties in an effort for Contractor to recover other fees and surcharges imposed by the FCC, such as telecom relay, along with related administrative costs.
  - b. Required regulatory charges and taxes are intended to be paid by the called party and then remitted 100% by the billing party to the appropriate governmental agency.

4. APPLICATIONS: The parties agree to implement the following Applications and/or to make certain modifications/adjustments to certain of the existing Applications:

- (i) Prepaid Calling Cards. County and Contractor agree to continue the detainee Prepaid Calling Cards trial, to which County and Contractor agreed in the April 12, 2012 amendment to the Contract ("Second Amendment"). County and Contractor agree that the Prepaid Calling Cards will extend through December 15, 2014 on the same terms as set forth in the Contract and the Second Amendment; provided that County may in its discretion elect to terminate the detainee Prepaid Calling Cards. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Second Amendment, the Contractor is responsible to pay any applicable taxes, surcharges and fees described in the Second Amendment.
- (ii) Text2Connect™. Upon County's determination that doing so will eliminate or minimize operational disruptions, Contractor agrees to disable Text2Connect™ ("\$9.99 Calls") and that it shall not re-enable the \$9.99 Calls at any time.
- (iii) Pay Now™. Contractor agrees that it disabled Pay Now calls ("\$14.99 Calls") in April 2012 and that it shall not re-enable the \$14.99 Calls at any time.
- (iv) Voice Biometrics™. The non-commissionable per call service charges of \$0.25 and \$0.40 shall no longer apply to Voice Biometrics™, and Contractor will continue to provide the Application at no charge.
- (v) Threads™. The parties agree that the County has the option to implement the Threads™ Application at no charge to the County and at no charge to detainees upon use terms to be agreed upon by the parties prior to implementation.

5. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Section I of Part III of the Contract entitled "System Requirements" is hereby modified as follows:

- (i) The duration of all detainee telephone calls is extended to thirty (30) minutes.
- (ii) The maximum call duration on free booking phones is extended to fifteen (15) minutes.
- (iii) Contractor will enable "first call free per PIN" feature for all CCDOC facilities limited to one call per detainee and a call duration of five (5) minutes.

6. PAYMENTS TO COUNTY: Section VII of Part III of the Contract entitled "Contractor Payments To County" is hereby modified as follows:

- (i) For the calendar year of 2013, Contractor will pay County an EAP in the sum of Three Million Three Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$3,300,000.00) payable in four equal quarterly payments as provided in the Contract. An Adjustment Payment shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Contract; *provided, however*, the parties agree that there will be no adjustment if the Calculated Amount is less than the EAP paid hereunder.

**Appendix M:**

**Adams County- FAQs on Video Visits**



## Frequently Asked Questions About Video Visitation at Adams County Jail

On Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> the Adams County Jail will begin using a new Video Visitation system for all friends and family visits with inmates. The following are answers to our most frequently asked questions.

**Q: How does the new video visitation system work?**

**A:** Inmates will visit with friends and family from a video visitation terminal (example to the right) in their housing area. Friends and family will visit inmates from a similar visitation terminal in the public visitation room in the lobby off of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. These visits are referred to as "onsite" or "public" visitations.



The new system will allow visitors to still come to the jail for visitation and it will now also allow friends and family to conduct a "remote" or "at-home" visit with from home using a computer, webcam and high speed internet connection.

**Q: How often can I visit inmates?**

**A:** Each inmate is allowed one 15 minute visit from friends or family members weekly at the jail. Inmates can have unlimited remote visits a week from home.

**Q: Do I need to come at a certain time to visit an inmate?**

**A:** Friends and family can schedule on-site video visits with inmates for the following times:

- Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm
- Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm
- Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm
- Sunday 1:00-3:00 pm

**Q: Is there a charge for video visitation?**

**A:** Each inmate will continue to receive one free 15 minute onsite visit each week.

Inmates can now receive unlimited remote / at-home visits each week. "At-home" visits normally cost \$20 for 20 minutes, but there will be an *introductory special of \$5 for a 20 minute visit through June 30, 2014.*

**Q: Do family/friends need to schedule visits or can they just show up?**

Visits need to be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Visits can be scheduled by either:

1. Using a video terminal in the public visitation area
2. Using the website at [www.securustech.net/videovisitation](http://www.securustech.net/videovisitation), click on "Schedule an Onsite Visitation" at the bottom of the page and follow the steps listed.



Schedule an Onsite visit

When you schedule your visit, be sure to write down the following items:

1. The date and time of your visit
2. The six digit PIN number (you will enter this at the time of your visit)
3. The video terminal you are assigned to (I.E. Vis\_1, Vis\_2, etc)

**Q: When can I visit?**

**A:** On-site Public visitation times are:

- Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm
- Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm
- Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm
- Sunday 1:00-3:00 pm

At-home visits can be scheduled with inmates every day of the week from 8 am – 10 pm (except during meal times).

**Q: What do friends/family need to do to visit from home?**

**A:** If you have a computer, high speed internet access and a webcam, you can conduct visits from home. You will need to do the following:

1. Create a visitation account at [www.securustech.net/videovisitation](http://www.securustech.net/videovisitation)
2. Request access to visit Adams County Jail via the website. Your request is then reviewed by jail staff.
3. Once you are approved to be an at-home visitor, you can then schedule at-home visits.



Schedule an At-Home visit

Note: No account is currently required for on-site visitation.

**Q: Is there anything else I should know?**

**A:** Here is some other helpful information:

1. There will be NO age restriction for visitation. However, ALL visitors 16 years of age and under must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.
2. Photo ID will be required for ALL adult visitors. Acceptable forms of ID will be, but not limited to, Driver's License, State ID cards, School ID, and Military ID.
3. Children not allowed to visit may not be left unattended.
4. Proper attire is required at all times. If proper attire is not worn your visitation privileges will be suspended.
5. If you have any questions about visiting from home, visit [www.securustech.net/videovisitation](http://www.securustech.net/videovisitation) for further information.
6. Please arrive at the jail 10 minutes early for an on-site visit so you can check-in and take your seat at your assigned terminal a couple minutes before your visit.

**Adams County**  
**521 Vermont**  
**Quincy, IL 62301**  
**(217)277-2200**

**General Rules:**

Participation in video-visitation is a privilege, not a right. Both visitor and inmate are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion at all times during a video visit.

Adam's County reserves the right to deny, cancel or terminate a video visit prior to or during a video session based upon visitor or resident inmate misconduct. Adam's County also reserves the right to restrict visitor from participating in all future use of the system.

All family member/friend video visits are recorded and subject to electronic monitoring by Adam's County personnel. Your use of this video visitation system constitutes consent to this recording and monitoring.

Tight fitting or provocative clothing is prohibited.

**Scheduling & Availability:**

All visitors must schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance and must pay for each scheduled session prior to visitation. All scheduled appointments are non-refundable.

At-Home Visitation Hours

Sunday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-1:00PM, 3:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00-PM-9: 30PM
Monday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00-PM-9: 30PM
Tuesday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00-PM6: 30PM, 8:00pm- 9:30pm
Wednesday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00-PM-9: 30PM
Thursday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00PM-6: 30PM, 8:00-PM-9: 30PM
Friday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 5:00-PM-9: 30PM
Saturday	8:00-11:00AM, 12:00PM-4:00PM, 3:00-PM-4:00PM, 5:00pm-9: 30pm

**Attorney Hours: Monday –Friday 8:00AM-11:00AM, 12:00 PM-5:00PM**

**On-Site Visitation Hours**

Sunday	1:00-3:00PM
Tuesday	6:30PM-8:00PM
Thursday	6:30-PM-8:00PM
Saturday	1:00-3:00PM

At the time of scheduling, the family member must be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Inmate legal name or Jail ID
2. Visitor official picture ID (i.e., driver's license)
3. Visitor home address
4. Visitor telephone number
5. Visitor email address

**Appendix N:**

**Champaign County- Article on successful campaign to eliminate site  
commissions**

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## Score one for the social crusader

Sun, 03/06/2005 - 2:00pm | Mike Monson (/author/mike-monson)

URBANA – A 43-year-old artist from Urbana who holds no elective office might seem an unlikely type to influence public policy.

But Sandra Ahten, an artist, diet counselor and motivational speaker, did just that over the past three months, as she lobbied, cajoled and played to the conscience of the Champaign County Board, eventually persuading the board to end its practice of accepting \$168,000 annually in commissions from the company that provides jail telephone service for inmates.

With Ahten and more than 40 supporters looking on Feb. 24, county board members voted to seek bids for inmate phone service, with a new contract likely to take effect in June.

In the meantime, the county will no longer accept the \$14,000 per month commission from the current provider, Evercom Systems Inc. of Irving, Texas, and will seek to negotiate lower rates for inmate phone service in the interim. The future contract also won't include commissions.

Under the old contract, inmates wanting to place a telephone call had to place a collect call. Rates were expensive: more than \$6 for a 15-minute local call. (An inmate's first few telephone calls, immediately after arrest, are free of charge.)

Ahten, who lives on Vine Street in Urbana, said she knew she had to do something about the jail phone contract after she learned in early December that a third man in six months had committed suicide in the Champaign County Jail system. Terrell Layfield, 25, hanged himself with a bed sheet Dec. 4 in the downtown county jail.

In the aftermath of the suicide, Champaign County Sheriff Dan Walsh said he had asked mental health officials to put together a brochure to help families members recognize signs of depression in inmates.

Ahten said she has experience with county jail policies after a family member was previously incarcerated. She said she knew firsthand the phone system and visitation policies were among the reasons inmates might feel isolated and depressed.

"I didn't take kindly to the fact they were laying it on the families when they were making it so difficult for families to have communications with inmates," she said.

So she decided to do something. Ahten said she called the county board administrative office to get a copy of the phone contract and found that it was due to expire Feb. 1 – making the issue timely.

Ahten then went to work. A member of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice, a grass-roots social justice group, Ahten met with the group and formulated a list of four points concerning the jail and sheriff's office policies they wanted to change.

The goals included:

- Changing the jail phone contract.
- Changing visitation policies that allowed no more than 50 total visits per day at each jail.
- An outside investigation of the three suicides that doesn't involve local police agencies.
- A study of the county's two jails to examine why the suicides happened.

A few months after those goals were set, Ahten has already achieved three of them.

Sheriff Walsh lifted the 50-visit limit on a trial basis several weeks ago after Ahten pointed out to him that there was often an hour or more of visitation time left when the limit was hit, and that the limit sometimes forced families to wait in line for two hours ahead of time to make sure they could see an inmate.

Walsh also arranged for a suicide-prevention study to be done by the National Institute of Corrections, looking at such items as physical structure, policies, procedures and personnel. A report is expected to be issued by the institute within a couple of weeks, he said.

The only goal not yet accomplished is an outside investigation of the suicides. The first suicide was investigated by the sheriff's office detectives, while the subsequent two have been investigated by Urbana detectives.

Ahten said she has developed respect for Walsh during the course of her campaign, saying she thinks the sheriff feels "a deep personal responsibility"

for the suicides.

"I think he is a man of integrity," she said.

Walsh declined to comment on Ahten.

A political liberal, Ahten said she has a strong sense of empathy toward the poor and the disenfranchised.

"I hope the message goes out that people care about poor people and the people in jail," she said. "I consider the jail to be a part of our community. They're going to get out. It's important for them to know they're not just seen as a burden on society."

A native of Effingham, Ahten said her sense of empathy may stem from the fact that she is a recovering alcoholic who stopped drinking and using drugs in 1990 after "hitting bottom." She regularly attends 12-step meetings.

"I was a functioning alcoholic," she recalled. "I held a job. But like many alcoholics, I didn't live a life with much integrity. I had this realization I was ruining my life, and I reached out for help. I've been sober ever since."

Another turning point came in 1994 when, enrolled at the University of Illinois, she took a class about multiracial society taught by James Anderson, a professor in educational policy studies. Ahten said the class made her realize that she was able to operate with confidence in life because she had a safety net of being white and having a white family and social network.

She said the class made her want to work to change society so everyone could operate with confidence and reach their full potential.

Ahten's husband, Kevin Elliott, a professional counselor, said he is never surprised at what his wife can accomplish.

"She has a real strong social conscience, and she's really determined," he said.

Ahten said she spent about 15 hours per week the last few months on the jail phone issue, including plenty of phone contact with county board members and showing up, often with a dozen or more supporters, at county board meetings.

When she's not busy with political activism, Ahten paints professionally. The current subject of most of her recent paintings is pregnant women. She has her own art Web site, [www.spiritofsandra.com](http://www.spiritofsandra.com) (<http://www.spiritofsandra.com>).

Ahten also counsels people on how to lose weight and is writing her own diet book, to be called "The Reasonable Diet." She also writes articles for local alternative papers and is available for speaking engagements.

She has won some admirers on the county board.

Champaign County Board member Brendan McGinty, D-Urbana, said he appreciated how Ahten went about trying to convince the county board.

"She could have just hammered away," he said. "But she put logic behind the emotion. She was able to stick to the facts. Name calling only goes so far."

Board member Jenny Putman, D-Urbana, called Ahten "amazing."

"There are very few people who are as articulate and poised," Putman said, "and have the courage of their convictions and the persistence."

**You can reach News-Gazette staff writer Mike Monson at (217) 351-5370 or via e-mail at [mmonson@news-gazette.com](mailto:mmonson@news-gazette.com) (<mailto:mmonson@news-gazette.com>).**

Login (</user/login?destination=comment/reply/2158#comment-form>) or register (</user/register?destination=comment/reply/2158#comment-form>) to post comments

## **Appendix O:**

**Jesse Jackson blog on jail phone contracts**

## Commentaries

November 26, 2012

### Kickbacks exploit inmates' families

By Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Weekly Commentary | Chicago Sun-Times

In Cook County jails, prisoners are charged as much as \$15 a call to be in touch with their relatives. The exploitive rates can force families — already struggling with the burdens of having a loved one locked up — to choose between supporting their loved one or paying for heat or food. An Illinois study found that the price of phone calls from prison was one of the two most significant barriers to family contact during incarceration.

Why are the most captive and vulnerable being charged such brutal rates for a phone call? Because they can be. They have no choice in provider. The prison system cuts a deal with a telephone company that pays the state a “commission” — what the New York Times calls a “legalized kickback” — that ranges from 15 to 60 percent of the revenue. Thus, as a report by the Prison Policy Initiative details, state prison systems have no incentive to select the company with the lowest rates. Instead, the correctional departments gain the most by selecting the company that provides the highest commissions.

The result makes prison-telephone use a cash cow for the phone companies — and a brutal exploitation of the families of prisoners who pay the charges. Not surprisingly, over the past few years, three corporations have come to monopolize the service of 90 percent of all incarcerated persons, making it even easier to control rates.

The Cook County Jail contract is with Securus Technologies. The Dallas-based company has contracts across the state of Illinois, and with a total of 2,200 jails and prisons nationwide, provides phone service for some 850,000 inmates. Securus peddles its service by emphasizing that the prison systems can make money for the prison systems.

These outrageous rates make it harder for prisoners and their families to stay in touch. Yet studies show that family contact and support is directly related to the success of a prisoner after release. As the Prison Policy Initiative reports, the 2012 Republican Party Platform endorses “family friendly policies . . . [to] reduce the rate of recidivism, thus reducing the enormous fiscal and social costs of incarceration.” The 2012 Democratic Party Platform also supports initiatives to reduce recidivism. A sensible step would be to lower prison telephone rates.

According to the Center for Media Justice, eight states have passed laws banning jail phone contracts that generate revenue for government bodies. But the Federal Communications Commission has been dithering for nearly a decade on regulations that would either break up monopolies or impose price caps on long-distance prison telephone rates and put a lid on the price-gouging. But action has been delayed in wake of an aggressive lobbying effort by prison phone companies.

The phone companies and prison officials argue that the extra charges are needed to pay for security screening of inmates' calls. But New York State banned kickbacks years ago, requiring low-cost service, while doing screening. Currently Global Tel-Link charges New York prisoners and their families about 5 cents per minute for local and long-distance calls. Compare that with Georgia, where inmates pay \$17 a minute for a 15-minute long-distance call. Again, by contrast, the federal prison system has inexpensive phone service, using a computer-controlled system that enables inmates to place calls to a limited list of numbers.

Some 60 percent of our nation's inmates are poor. If families accept their collect calls, the burdensome charges — it can cost less to telephone Japan — can help push families into bankruptcy or foreclosure. If families don't accept the calls, they are consumed by guilt and contribute to the psychological isolation that can thwart rehabilitation.

Rep. Bobby Rush from Illinois and Rep. Henry Waxman from California have joined in calling on the FCC to act. It's time to end a shameless system that benefits a few big corporations at the expense of the poor families trying to support loved ones in trouble.

**Appendix P:**

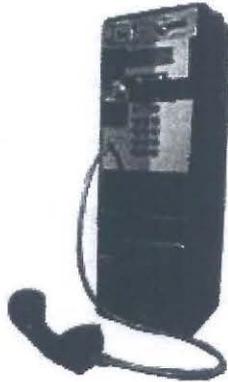
**Article from *Stateville Speaks* on 2009 campaign to boycott prison phones**

# VIGIL FOR TRUE JUSTICE

## APRIL 1ST – 30TH: ARE YOU READY TO STAND?

The State of Illinois spends more than \$1.3 billion on adult incarceration, and has a prison population of more than 50,000 people. By virtually any measure, however, our prison system is a failed system.

Our jails are badly overcrowded and getting worse. Prisoners are caged like animals, often for more than 23 hours a day. Health care is sub-par, and often simply unavailable when needed most. Our recidivism rate is higher than the national average. Education, re-entry and job-training programs have been almost entirely eliminated. Prisoners are unprepared and ill-equipped to reenter society. Many are potentially more dangerous upon their release than when they were originally incarcerated. Despite – and to a large extent because – of “tough-on-crime” legisla-



tion, the war on drugs and harsher sentencing policies, the situation is worsening while the crime rate is showing minimal improvement.

Efforts to remedy the situation with

petitions, sit-ins, sit-outs, testimony at legislative hearings, rallies, meetings and other efforts have, to date, been largely ineffective. The Legislature has done little other than to study the problems while continuing to ignore or dismiss recommendations, cut allocations, and turn their backs to the problem. Meanwhile, shamefully, they have allowed the continuation of many unfair practices from which certain entities within the prison-industrial complex gain multi-million-dollar profits – always at the expense of prisoners and their families. Telephone rates, for example, as well as product prices in prison commissaries and vending machines, are significantly higher than those charged the general public on the “outside,” producing millions

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## VIGIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

of dollars in unjustified revenues to companies providing those services and products.

### What Can We Do?

Frustrated by years of futile efforts, several organizations whose purpose is to help prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families have arrived at a new and refreshingly different strategy: Doing nothing whatsoever.

That notion gave birth to the basic idea behind the Vigil for True Justice, in which reform advocates, concerned citizens and frustrated taxpayers simply stop, observe and think about the futility, lack of effectiveness and counter-productivity inherent in the Illinois system of mass incarceration.

The Vigil for True Justice will be a 30-day moratorium on spending, from April 1st to April 30th, during which prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, friends and others take a month-long “time out” from using prison phone systems and making vending machine and unnecessary prison commissary purchases. The purpose is to make a strong statement to prison administrators, companies who have monopolistic advantages and the public at large that we are not going to pay for this broken system any more, and want a true and fair

justice system that productively serves society. Remember, this is one time when doing nothing could change everything.

In concert with this effort, our organizations will actively lobby the Legislature for action on several key issues: Meritorious Good Time (HB3899; Alternative Sentencing; Electronic Home Monitoring; Step-Down Programs for Reentry; Job Placement Programs; Family Services; and Fair Pricing for Products and Services.

This program is unique in many ways, but one significant difference is that neither needs nor asks for funding contributions; we want you to keep your money in your pocket. Those pledging participation in the program will, however, be asked to spread the word and invite at least one inmate, family member, friend, citizen, voter, taxpayer or supporter to join the Vigil.

There will be an actual rally, or march, to kick off this program publicly, to be held on March 30, time and place to be announced. You don't have to be there to participate, however, and remember that no one is expected to donate money. We ask only that you join us in this important effort.

Your suggestions and ideas for strengthening the program are welcome. Contact Vigil for True Justice, c/o James Chapman, 3629 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago, IL 60653, or email [vigilfortruejustice@gmail.com](mailto:vigilfortruejustice@gmail.com). You can also find the Vigil on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.