SHERIFF

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 9, 2015

Received & Inspected
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FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 14 hours per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

In addition to security and administrative functions that must be maintained, there are programs for inmates that we are required to maintain by law. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it may not be funded. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.

Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails.

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Respectfully submitted,

Ronald S. Abernathy, Sheriff