



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

*Sheriff William T. Schatzman*



April 20, 2015

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

Re: Ex Parte Presentation  
WC Docket No.: 12-375

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am the Sheriff for Forsyth County, North Carolina. You may recall I last wrote you on December 9, 2013 with concerns on Inmate Calling Services in local jails. Please consider this letter as my ex parte filing in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. This important matter has the very real potential to have a profound effect on my detention center operations in Forsyth County. In this regard, I reach out to you for your assistance.

Please know the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office concurs with the position filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this matter. I write you for the purpose of providing you additional information specific to my office in support of the National Sheriffs' Association's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if inmate calling services are to continue to be readily accessible in county jails. To disallow costs recovery is likely to result in a significant reduction in these important services. As you are already aware, my office is not required by law to provide inmate calling services as this is a completely discretionary service



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for the benefit of inmates and their families.

Presently, by way of example, our Detention Center can accommodate 1016 inmates and during the month of March, inmates made 27,178 telephone calls. The number of hours for this number of telephone calls was 3,266 which equates to 195,960 minutes or 105 hours seven days a week. Restricting our costs recovery ability will likely result in a substantial reduction in inmate telephone access. In the event this service has to be reduced to a few hours per day, then and in that event, the expected result would be reduced time for officers to monitor telephone calls for illegal activity and public safety, which we actually do. Our telephone system is an essential component of our detention center operations. We must have officers available to monitor inmate telephone calls for protection of the public.

By way of illustration, where criminal conduct was discovered and prosecuted, my Sheriff's Office had a case where narcotics were being sent into the detention center and the case was made totally by use of mail interceptions and recorded conversations. But for the ability to monitor inmate telephone calls this crime may have gone undetected. This is but one of many instances where criminal activity was discovered by monitoring inmate calls.

Many hours are expended by Detention Officers in maintaining our phone system. Daily duties may include initiating "pin" numbers for all admissions, securing data requested by



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outside agencies, maintenance hours spent by staff within the facility, monitoring calls in the facility for security purposes, and blocking numbers for citizen safety concerns. All these duties impact the phone system. Not allowing costs recovery has the very real potential to adversely compromise these duties and thus impact public safety and our ability to detect criminal conduct.

It bears repeating that our detention facility must be allowed to recover our costs for this service to be able to continue to provide inmate calling services without reducing inmate telephone access. It is my sincere hope this matter will be given thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Schatzman".

William T. Schatzman  
Sheriff

WTS/la