



# EATON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

**THOMAS L. REICH, SHERIFF**

**JEFFREY G. COOK, UNDERSHERIFF**

1025 Independence Blvd • Charlotte MI 48813 • Phone 517-543-3512 • 517-372-8217 • Fax 543-2922

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April 9, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Eaton County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Eaton 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. Inmates also use the phone system for more than just to make a call. They use it to make commissary purchases, to check the time, to verify court dates, and to verify release dates. Staff members are required to maintain phone records, block numbers that have received outgoing threatening or unwanted calls, and to review calls for safety and security issues and investigative purposes. Staff members also verify the cleaning of the phones to prevent the spreading of bacteria/disease and monitor these areas to prevent abuse/damage to the phones. Staff are also required to escort and monitor technicians when they service or repair these phones.

Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 16 hours per day. Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover these costs to be fiscally responsible to the county and be able to continue to allow ICS deployment in jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheriff Thomas Reich

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