

# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Sheriff  
Al St. Laurence

Chief Deputy  
Roy J. Harris

Enforcement Operations Administrator  
Colonel Brian M. Counihan, Sr.

Assistant Enforcement Administrator  
Major Russell A. Smith



Jail Administrator  
Colonel Thomas M. Gilberg

Assistant Jail Administrator  
Melissa S. Kohne

Jail Operations  
Major Kimberly G. Middleton

Jail Security  
Major Gloria G. Wilson

April 30, 2015

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**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am the Sheriff of Chatham County, Georgia. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Chatham 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.

Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels will be detrimental to the programs that are offered by this Office to our inmate population. We are currently offering programs such as GED prep, GED testing, 28 day drug and alcohol treatment program, just to name a few. If we do not receive this compensation, these programs will cease to exist. We can show statistically where these programs have shown marked improvement in our recidivism rate and actually have improved the lives of the individuals that have participated.

I do not believe that the taxpayers of Chatham would be willing to pay additional costs towards this optional service that is provided to inmates. I believe that the loss of these programs would severely affect every inmate that enters our jail.

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

Sincerely,



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Al St Lawrence, Sheriff