

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COWETA COUNTY

MIKE YEAGER, SHERIFF

April 30, 2015

NEWNAN, GA.

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

Re: ExParte Communication
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

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

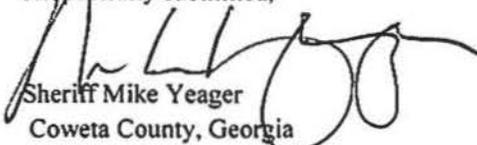
Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail(s) and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, we will not be removing the phones off the walls, but we will be forced to significantly limit access to inmate phones in our jail. Today our Detention Center houses approximately 300 inmates. Currently, we have the resources to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 16 hours per day. In the month of March, inmates made 19,601 telephone calls. The numbers of hours of recorded conversations in March were 3,664 which equals 118 hours every day seven days a week. Today we have our CID Investigators that routinely monitor calls every day for at least two to three hours.

Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will limit our ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner. If we do not receive compensation for our officer time to monitor calls to protect the public we will have no choice but to reduce the availability of our phones to no more than 21 hours each week. By monitoring the phones we are able to gather gang information of potential issues happening on our streets and inside our facility. We must have officers available to listen to phone calls to prevent this type of criminal activity.

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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. Thank you for your efforts to resolve this issue.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheriff Mike Yeager
Coweta County, Georgia