



Pitt County, North Carolina
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
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May 11, 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 Pitt County, North Carolina. The Pitt County Sheriff's Office herby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Pitt County Sheriff's Office supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in the 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 cost associated with the provision of ICS service, we will not be ripping 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 485 inmates. Currently, we have the resource 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 39,156 telephone calls. The numbers of hours of recorded conversations in March were 3,818 which equals 123 hours every day seven days a week. Today we have several officers that routinely monitor calls every day for 4 hours.

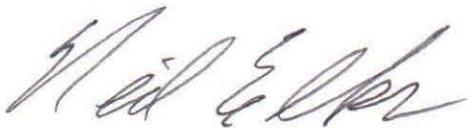
Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our cost, will limit our ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner. If we do not receive compensation for our

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 6 hours each day. These officers monitoring calls deter and solve crimes on a weekly basis. One incident in particular an inmate had another inmate assault a Detention Officer. By monitoring the phone calls we were able to get information that the inmate paid money to the second inmate to assault the officer. From that one incident we were able to prosecute three different people.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ed. Elph", written in a cursive style.

Sheriff

Pitt County, North Carolina