

LYON COUNTY SHERIFF

Al McNeil
Sheriff

“Protect and Serve”

July 09, 2015

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

JUL 20 2015

FCC Mail Room

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:

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Lyon County Sheriff's Office strongly 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 Inmate Calling Solutions (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. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow full access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 19 hours per day. Annually, almost 11,500 calls are made with a facility debit of approximately \$27,000 and a net proceed to this facility at approximately \$6,000. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not recover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the feasibility and the affordability to continue ICS services.

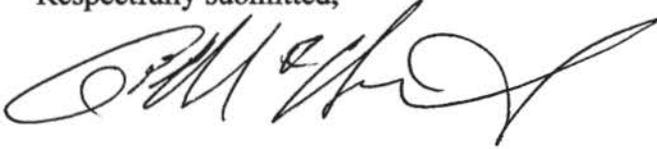
In recent years our budget has not kept pace with operational costs. In fact our total operating budget has only increased by 20-percent from 2008 through 2015, while our inmate health care and board of prisoner costs have increased by 24-percent during the same period. These two line items consume in excess of 25-percent of total Sheriff's Office expenditures. In addition to detention security and administrative functions that must be maintained, there are a number of inmate programs we are mandated by law to maintain. If ICS costs must compete with all other budget requirements, it is highly likely the program may not be funded. However, if the cost of ICS has its own funding source, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.

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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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al McNeil', written in a cursive style.

Al McNeil
Sheriff

Cc:

Senator Harry Reid
Senator Dean Heller
Congressman Mark Amodei
Congressman Cresent Hardy
Lyon County Board of County Commissioner