

OCT 30 2008

FCC Mail Room

Sheriff J. R. "Jack" Parker

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Florida Sheriffs Association
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Detention Center**

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860 Camp Road
Sharps, FL 32959
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October 21, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. – TW- A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte, CC Docket No. 96-128
Security Challenges Related to the Wright Alternative Petition

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is submitted in connection with the Wright Alternative Petition in the above referenced docket. That petition, if granted, will negatively impact jail security and law enforcement funding not only at the Brevard County Jail, but also jails nationwide.

The management of the inmate phone system provided for inmates is an important tool to allow inmates to stay in touch with their families and thereby reducing stress. This is a significant issue as it directly impacts officer safety whenever you reduce levels of stress on inmates. The system is also an important tool for the jails as it provides an avenue to monitor issues or incidents that have reached a level of criminal activity through inmate's use of the phone system.

As an elected Sheriff, I am in favor of supporting reasonable rates established at the local level for providing controlled and monitored inmate phone calls, and not the elimination of inmate phone system commissions.

To eliminate commissions would have a negative impact to the inmates as phone companies and jails will be left with no option but for removal of the phones. It is my understanding the Wright Petition fails to consider the costs incurred by jails to provide and administer inmate-calling systems which is especially valid now due to budgetary cuts most facilities are dealing with and will continue to face as budgets become even tighter. Use of these commission revenues could be restricted to law enforcement and corrections purposes.

I also have serious concerns that inmates would seek out alternate means to circumvent security protocols and mask terminating point of the call itself. An example of this would be to obtain wireless and VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) service with interstate numbers to mask their true exchange. This would result in the inability to track the called party on such calls, which would impede law enforcement's ability to maintain controls on inmate calling and investigate criminal activity.

As Sheriff, I would respectfully request that action on this petition be delayed or discontinued in order for the F. C. C. to achieve a better understanding of the impact of any proposed changes.

Very truly yours,

Sheriff Jack Parker

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