



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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January 22, 2018

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
900 Court St. NE, S-301
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Lew Frederick
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Jeff Barker
900 Court St. NE, H-480
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Tawna Sanchez
900 Court St. NE, H-273
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
900 Court St. NE, H-372
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
900 Court St. NE, S-215
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Carla Piluso
900 Court St. NE, H-491
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Follow-up to DOC/DAS testimony on January 11, 2018

Dear Interim Ways & Means Public Safety Subcommittee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information related to the inmate communications services within the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), as well as the current procurement for a communications service provider. I wanted to correct three comments made on the record during my presentation with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Director Katy Coba.

First, a question was asked whether the current vendor has ever reduced their rates within the span of their contract. What I said on the record is that the rates for inmate phone calls have remained the same throughout the life of the contract – \$0.16 per minute for domestic calls and \$0.50 per minute for international calls. What I did not mention is that the vendor has reduced its rates for video visits as follows:

- In 2012, video visits started at \$19.80 per 30-minute session
- In November 2013, the vendor reduced the rate to \$9.00 per 30-minute session
- In February 2016, the vendor reduced the rate to \$7.50 per 30-minute session (this is the current rate)

Second, I mentioned that any new contract for inmate communication services will not include a site commission/revenue sharing component for communications between adults in custody and their loved ones. However, we are exploring two other options, which I described during my testimony:

1. Accepting site commissions on other services (music and entertainment)
2. Replacing the site commission arrangement with a cost recovery component – essentially allowing us to recoup the costs for staff who are required to monitor the system.

During my testimony, I stated we were considering option 1 *or* option 2. In fact, we are considering both options.

Third, at one point during our testimony, Director Coba stated that our goal is to have the RFP out by spring of 2018. This was actually a prior goal before the Stage Gate process came into play. Our current projection places the RFP release in the fall of 2018, which is what we shared with committee members leading up to Legislative Days.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to respond to your questions. I look forward to our continued testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colette S. Peters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Colette S. Peters
Director