



## **Organization for Black Struggle**

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June 27, 2018

Anne L. Precythe  
Director of Corrections  
2729 Plaza Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Precythe,

Our office has been deluged by correspondence from prisoners at Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (ERDCC) in Bonne Terre and their families. At the center of the complaints are the sale of defective televisions to prisoners via the ERDCC Inmate Canteen. While having access to TVs may be considered a privilege, there are real-life benefits to the prison population and to the institutions. It provides inmates with news of the outside world and entertainment--a relief from the repressive conditions that permeate Missouri's correctional facilities.

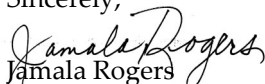
The Organization for Black Struggle has received documents, some acquired by prisoners through the Sunshine Law, confirming that the administration was aware of the problems with the televisions. These documents included, but are not limited to, minutes from the May 29, 2018 Institutional Offender Council meeting where the issue appeared as an agenda item.

In internal correspondence between staff and prisoners, the term "defective" was often used by prison authorities meaning that they were aware of the problem. Yet those who purchased the Axess 13' LED HDTV at \$132.35 were informed that they had no redress except to have the TV sent out for repairs at their own expense.

Prisoners should receive a replacement TV comparable to their purchase or full compensation needs to be made to the victims immediately. Further, the DOC should directly work out the details with the original supplier or contracted repair company; inmates should not have to suffer through the predictable bureaucracy.

OBS is calling into a full investigation by your office into this scam and a full report be made to prisoners and their families. We would appreciate written resolution to the situation.

Sincerely,

  
Jamala Rogers  
Executive Director

cc: Warden Stanley Payne, ERDCC-Bonne Terre  
Nimrod Chappell, NAACP MO State Chair  
Adolphus M. Pruitt, NAACP St. Louis City President  
Ester Haywood, NAACP St. Louis County President  
Rev. Rodney E. Williams, NAACP Kansas City President  
Sen. Bob Dixon, Chair-Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Sen. Ed Emery, Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Sen. Bob Onder, Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Sen. Andrew Koenig, Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Sen. Scott Sifton, Judiciary, Civil and Criminal Committee  
Rep. Shane Roden, Chair-Corrections Committee  
Rep. Jay Mosely, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Bruce Franks, Jr., Corrections Committee  
Rep. Kathie Conway, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Jim Hansen, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Mike Henderson, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Galen Higdon, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Herman Morse, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Mary Nichols, Corrections Committee  
Rep. Tim Remole, Corrections Committee  
Chris King, St. Louis American  
Jeremy Koehler, St. Louis Post Dispatch  
Karen Dillon, Kansas City Pitch  
Sarah Fenske, St. Louis Riverfront Times  
Edna Hedy Hardin, MO-Citizens United for Errant Rehabilitation  
Zaki Baruti, Universal African Peoples Organization  
Jeanette Mott-Oxford, EMPOWER Missouri  
Jeff Mittman, MO ACLU  
Amy Breihan, MacArthur Justice Center  
John Chasnoff, Coalition Against Police Crimes & Repression

**“Black People on the *Move* ...Forward Still !”**