



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.

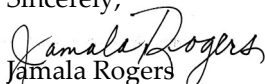
The Organization for Black Struggle has received documents, some acquired by prisoners through the Sunshine Law, confirming that the administration was aware of the problems with the televisions. These documents included, but are not limited to, minutes from the May 29, 2018 Institutional Offender Council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