



Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr.

November 20, 2015

Dear Senator Scott,

I write to you with grave concern over President Obama's recent and alarming announcement to use an Executive Order to transfer dangerous Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Charleston Naval Brig, which is closely surrounded by the South Carolina communities that I serve and protect.

First and foremost as Sheriff, I am the Chief County Law Enforcement Officers in the Lowcountry and my primary duty is the safety and security of my County. Additionally, I am responsible for the safe operation of the county jail. My many years of experience as Sheriff allows me to speak to the dangers of transferring Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Charleston Consolidated Naval Brig.

Given my commitment to uphold and enforce the law, I am shocked and alarmed that the President of the United States would so willfully and blatantly disregard the laws of our country. As President Obama has said, "no one person is above the law, not even the President," which is why I find his latest promise of unprecedented action to be egregious and upsetting.

Since I operate a local detention center and understand the physical and logistical requirements to house the most dangerous types of criminals, I can say unequivocally, that the intended use of a medium-security facility to hold terrorists is beyond irresponsible, it is reckless. The busy Charleston Consolidated Brig stands in close proximity to schools, communities, an extremely busy Port of Charleston, a high-traffic railway, and vital strategic military centers such as the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) Atlantic and the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command. The proposed transfer would certainly raise the profile of the Lowcountry as a high value terrorist target.

As you are well aware, local law enforcement agencies are under considerable financial strain to perform our duties and such an increase in potential terrorist activities would undermine and diminish our abilities to serve and protect our communities.

Further, the logistics imposed on local law enforcement during any transfer, movement, or the unknown activities that are associated with the indefinite detention of these terrorists could seriously impact our ability to keep the peace and maintain lawful order in our neighborhoods and communities.

Administrative Office

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Law Enforcement Division

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~ Patrol ~
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Al Cannon Detention Center

3841 Leeds Avenue
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Judicial Center

100 Broad Street, Suite 381
Charleston, SC 29401
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Quite frankly, I am hard pressed to think of a worse place to bring dozens of hardened terrorists than the Lowcountry of South Carolina. We applaud you for your continued effort to fight President Obama's misguided and illegal effort to fulfil a campaign promise.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Al Cannon, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Al Cannon, Jr.
Sheriff
Charleston County