



Sheriff S. Duane Lewis

Dear Senator Scott

We write 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 we serve and protect.

First and foremost, as Sheriffs we are the Chief County Law Enforcement Officers in the Lowcountry and our primary duty is the safety and security of the Citizens of our counties. Additionally, we are responsible for the safe operation of county jails. Our many years of experience as Sheriffs allow us to speak to the dangers of transferring Guantanamo Bay detainees to the Charleston Consolidated Naval Brig.

Given our commitment to up hold and enforce the law, we are 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 we find his latest promise of unprecedented action to be egregious and upsetting.

Since we 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 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 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.

Administration Office
223 N. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
- Sheriff -
Office (843) 719-4414
Fax (843) 719-4274

Hill—Finklea Detention Center
300 California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Office (843) 719-4390
Fax (843) 719-4592

Law Enforcement Division
223 N Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
- Patrol & Investigations -
Office (843) 719-4412
Fax (843) 719-4337

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.

Quite frankly, we are 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 "S. Duane Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

S. Duane Lewis
Sheriff