

DORCHESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF L.C. KNIGHT

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Senator Tim Scott
2500 City Hall Lane, 3rd Floor Suite
North Charleston, SC 29406

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 Low Country 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 Low country 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.

Quite frankly, we are hard pressed to think of a worse place to bring dozens of hardened terrorists than the Low Country of South Carolina. We applaud you for your continued effort to fight President Obama's misguided and illegal effort to fulfill a campaign promise.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.C. Knight", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L. C. Knight
Sheriff
Dorchester County

LCK:tmb