



WILLIAM EARL HILTON
Sheriff and Tax Collector ~ Rapides Parish

September 13, 2017

Captain James Edwards
Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal
3241 NW Evangeline Trwy., Suite B
Lafayette, LA 70507

RE: Rapides Parish Detention Center #1
Report #CB-17-013298-1

Dear Captain Edwards:

In reference to the findings of the Fire Marshal inspection conducted at Rapides Parish Detention Center #1 on September 7, 2017, I would like to outline the steps we have taken to remedy the overcrowding situation at Detention Center #1. As Sheriff I have contacted every law enforcement agency in the parish and advised them of the current status of the jail, asking that summonses be issued for those individuals who commit misdemeanor violations and limit bookings in the jail to felony violations. I also contacted the City Court judges in Alexandria and Pineville, and the mayors of the other municipalities in Rapides Parish asking their help in relieving the number of individuals being held for their respective jurisdiction. The Rapides Parish District Attorney, the judges of the Ninth Judicial District Court, and the Rapides Parish Police Jury have also been notified as well. In accordance with the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 15:764 written notification outlining the jail overcrowding situation was hand delivered to each of the above listed agencies.

On Monday, September 11, 2017, meetings with members of the Police Jury, District Attorney and my staff were held to discuss remedies to reduce the population in the jail. I addressed the Rapides Parish Police Jury at its Regular Meeting on Monday afternoon and advised them of the emergent situation in the jail and that extreme measures would have to be taken to remedy this matter. After the Police Jury meeting, I met with the Rapides Parish District Attorney, Judges Patricia Koch and Mary Doggett, Police Jury President Craig Smith, Attorney Tom Wells, Attorney Dan Broussard, and members of my staff to further discuss avenues available to resolve this situation with the jail. Mr. Smith acknowledged that the Police Jury understands their statutory financial obligation for the "feeding and maintenance" of inmates, and that some of these inmates