



New York State Sheriffs' Association, Inc.

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December 21st, 2015

John Burns
Chairman, Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Ave
7th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Chairman Burns:

As I'm sure you know, the New York State Sheriffs' Association is a not-for-profit membership organization comprised of the state's 58 Sheriffs. It was formed in 1934 to assist Sheriffs in the performance of their duties and to improve upon the services they deliver to the public. The Association is an affiliated organization of NYSAC and performs services for our members similar to those performed for you and other county officials by NYSAC.

There is one particular project of our Association which I would like to highlight for you, our Expedited Bail by Credit Card Program. Several years ago our Association became aware that many jail cells around the state were being occupied by low-level offenders who just did not have the ready cash to quickly make bail. Thus, in many cases, costly cell space was being used up for want of a few hundred dollars in the defendant's pocket. We worked with Government Payment Services (GPS), a credit card processing company, to set up a credit card acceptance program for the jails, which meets the stringent New York rules on the bail process. Now an inmate who does not have cash, can be bailed out through our credit card program. Thousands of jail-cell-days, and the attendant cost thereof, have been saved for the counties through this program. And, the Association has extended this program to also allow the payment of other obligations to government by credit card, and many localities are using it to collect taxes, probation fees, and other fees and charges.

The Association endorses and works closely with Government Payment Services to make sure the program is working properly. It intercedes through our wholly-owned affiliate, Star Governmental, Inc., to solve any problems which might develop between GPS and the jails in the highly technical area of bail in New York, and we receive a small fee from GPS for our work on the project. Of course our endorsement does not bind any county to use the GPS program but over 50 counties, including your county, have contracted with GPS and are enjoying the benefit of fewer wasted jail cells. In 2014 the Association earned \$2,316.60 from GPS for payment for our efforts related to your County's participation in the Expedited Bail by Credit Card Program.

Again, when your County's current agreement expires, you are free to discontinue using GPS or to continue to participate in the Expedited Bail by Credit Card Program.

If you have any questions about this program or our Association's role in it, or about our Association's many services in general, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter R. Kehoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Peter R. Kehoe
Executive Director

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