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October 24, 2019

Tricia Everest, Chair
Board of Trustees
Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority
c/o David Hooten
Oklahoma County Clerk, Secretary of the Trustees
320 Robert S. Kerr, 2nd floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Re: Operational Termination of the Oklahoma County Detention Center

Dear Ms. Everest:

Since the inception of the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority ("OCCJA" or "Jail Trust" or "Trust"), we, through no fault of our own, have experienced a mass exodus of employees due to their confusion and outright distrust of the County Commissioners and the Trust when it comes to their future employment, benefits and the like. In our current state of disastrously low staffing levels, we simply cannot operate in a proper manner and will soon have to seek outside assistance if we are to maintain adequate services. We are well aware of the language of the Trust indenture and State Statutes when it comes to the Sheriff's Office role in transition, but the unintended consequences, politics of, and liability created by same have simply created a situation where we can no longer operate. In addition, since the Trust's spokesman and County Commissioners have essentially stated that the Jail is so mismanaged, only the Trust can remedy its problems; you must agree that it is time for the Trust to immediately take over to eliminate any further alleged mismanagement.

The Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office ("OCSO") has operated the Oklahoma County Detention Center ("OCDC") under unrelenting adverse circumstances since November 22, 1991. The Trust has only added to the problem. Despite the foregoing, the OCDC has been repeatedly accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the American Correctional Association. The OCDC has been audited by numerous regulatory agencies including the National PREA Resource Center of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the Oklahoma Department of Health resulting in few critical notices. The Board of County Commissioners entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with DOJ on October 28, 2009 in response to criticism of both the operation of the jail and the design of the facility. The MOU expired on October 29, 2014. While operational issues were addressed as fully as available funding would allow, the MOU also required replacement of the facility.

During my tenure as Sheriff, the OCDC has undergone massive positive changes, despite underfunding. We have not only trimmed all of the fat, but have instituted excellent programs for both inmates and personnel alike. An example would be the expansion of mental health resources by partnering through the OCDC medical provider with educational institutions preparing the next generation of psychiatrists. In addition, the OCDC has provided office space to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services ("ODMHSAS") so that it could treat on site at OCDC

because of the lack of available bed space at ODMHSAS facilities (these increased resources were obtained without material additional expenditures). I am proud of all that we have accomplished, but with lack of funding and now declining staffing levels, we have simply hit a wall and there is nothing more we can do to maintain or further improve inmate living and employee working conditions.

Therefore, it is my desire that the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority (“OCCJA”) commence operational authority of the Oklahoma County Detention Center on the 1st day of January, 2020 at 12:01 AM. By this point in time, it is anticipated that the OCCJA will have hired a jail administrator, resolved the outstanding retirement and benefits issues relating to their employees, and secured a lease agreement with Oklahoma County. Identifying this transition date will, ideally, assist in stabilizing the current employee population thereby benefitting the OCCJA, the OCSO, and Oklahoma County and ultimately the inmates in the care of the county.

All OCSO personnel will be removed from Jail operations and we will begin our transition to another facility as soon as approved by the BOCC. The Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority officers and officials must assume control of all aspects of the facility on the above-stated date and time to ensure a seamless transition.

As a law enforcement agency, the OCSO will always respond to requests for aid from any law enforcement agency or political subdivision within Oklahoma County, including OCCJA, in the event of an unforeseen emergency. However, as a result of this operational transition, OCSO will no longer assist with day to day operational matters at the OCDC.

We wish the OCCJA the best of good fortune in its service to the public, and we are committed to continuing to work with the OCCJA to ensure a seamless and positive transition.

Sincerely,

PD Taylor, Sheriff
Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office