



VERNON BETTS
SHERIFF
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
CARNAHAN COURTHOUSE
1114 MARKET STREET - SUITE 112
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101
(314) 622-4131

June 6, 2019

U.S. Marshal John D. Jordan
Thomas Eagleton Courthouse
111 S. 10th Street, Room 2.319
St. Louis, MO 63102-1116

Dear Marshal Jordan:

I am writing to inform you that the Sheriff's Office will be cancelling the contract between the United States Marshal Service and the City of St. Louis Sheriff's Office for the transportation of federal detainees.

Please consider this letter to be a conditional 60 day notice of cancellation of the contract between the City of St. Louis Sheriff's Office and the United States Marshal Service. The proposed City of St. Louis budget for the Sheriff's Office for the next fiscal year does not requisition enough staff for me to continue honoring the terms of this contract.

As you know from our conversations, I have repeatedly informed the appropriate officials in City Hall about the 671% increase in the transportation of federal prisoners and my desperate need for additional staff to honor the agreement between our offices.

All relevant parties have been informed that our offices have experienced an increase in year 2017 from 297 prisoners transported to 1,997 prisoners in 2018. If the current 2019 monthly rate stays consistent, our projected total is the transportation of over 3,000 prisoners. This increase has rendered my ability to continue this mission impossible without additional deputies.

The Sheriff's Office has experienced a significant increase in the transportation of federal prisoners over the past 18 months. If the final budget reflects the necessary changes, and I have appropriate staffing levels, I will withdraw this cancellation of the contract. I hope to continue working with the U.S. Marshal Service. I will be in touch soon either way to inform you of a final result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vernon Betts".

Sheriff Vernon Betts
City of St. Louis

CC: Mayor Lyda Krewson, President of the Board of Aldermen Lewis Reed, Comptroller Darlene Green, Director of Public Safety Jimmie Edwards, Budget Director Paul Payne, Ways & Means Committee