



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff Fred Akshar: Setting the Record Straight on the Cost of Holding Incarcerated Individuals at the Broome County Correctional Facility

Facts Matter. The men and women of our Broome County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division do an incredible job maintaining the safety and security of our Correctional Facility to the benefit of all those who live and work there as well as our Broome County community.

Our entire team appreciates their work, and we will not stand idly by while far-left advocates continue spreading blatant lies about the incredible work they do.

The Facts about the Cost to House County vs. State vs. Federal Incarcerated Individuals

The latest claim that housing federal or state detainees is an additional cost to Broome County taxpayers is yet another falsehood from these activists and represents a fundamental lack of understanding regarding how correctional facilities are staffed or budgeted.

The budget to staff our 600-bed facility is established yearly and New York State requires our facility to be fully staffed whether we have 100, 300, 450 or 500 incarcerated individuals at any given time.

The cost to staff the Broome County Correctional Facility does not change per day based on the addition or subtraction of any detainee. Additional Corrections Officers are not hired or laid off based on the daily population.

We have a set number of staff for our 600-bed facility mandated by New York State and that number does not change based on whether or not we hold federal or state detainees.

The majority of our housing units hold between 40-60 individuals, and while total population numbers may fluctuate daily, the number of open housing units does not. In the event that an unused housing unit is opened to accommodate additional detainees, the staffing ratio is generally one corrections officer for up to 60 incarcerated individuals per shift.

While Broome County receives reimbursements for state-ready inmates at a rate of \$100 per detainee per day from the state and \$110 per detainee per day for federal detainees from the federal government, all incarcerated individuals held in the normal course of business are still fully funded by Broome County taxpayers.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

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(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

The Cost of Local vs. State & Federal

For example, a housing unit holding 45 detainees for local law enforcement agencies must be fully staffed and requires at least 3 corrections officers over a 24-hour period. The cost to house these detainees on behalf of local law enforcement is fully assumed by Broome County taxpayers.

Another housing unit containing 45 detainees for federal law enforcement agencies requires the same amount of staffing, but Broome County would be reimbursed \$34,650 per week/\$1,801,800 per year from the federal government, which not only offsets the cost to staff this housing pod, but helps offset the total cost to run the facility.

If, for example, today's population is 486 detainees total, with 25 US Marshals detainees, 45 ICE detainees and 25 state-ready detainees. The number of federal and state detainees held would represent an extra \$71,400 in reimbursements from our federal and state partners each week and an extra \$3,712,800 in funding per year at the established rate. The remaining 391 local detainees would still require the same amount of staff to house, but the cost is fully paid for by the Broome County taxpayer.

The only cost that fluctuates on a day-to-day basis is food. It currently costs \$6.45 per day to feed an incarcerated individual. For federal and state detainees at the above totals, this represents an increased total food cost of \$612.75 per day against a total of \$10,200 in reimbursements per day.

Other concerns like additional medical costs are reimbursed by the federal government.

Conclusion

Any claims that holding detainees on behalf of the federal government is costing Broome County taxpayers are blatantly and demonstrably false, but that hasn't stopped advocates from continually trying to spread misinformation.

If anything, the opposite is true, and the number of federal and state detainees, however large or small, still represents a net increase in funding and a net reduction in tax burden borne by Broome County residents.

The cost to fully staff a 600-bed institution, which is mandated by New York State, is projected to be roughly \$35,024,636 in 2025, whether the facility is filled or not. If the facility was filled with only local, non-federal and non-state detainees, the cost would still be \$35 million. Without holding detainees for our federal partners, Broome County residents would easily pay nearly \$1.5 million more in taxes to maintain the facility. Holding detainees on behalf of our state and federal partners has always been, and continues to be, a net reduction in cost to Broome County taxpayers.

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