

Jack Strain, Jr.

Sheriff

Ex-Officio Tax Collector

St. Tammany Parish

E. Alfred Strain
Chief Deputy



July 9, 2010

Ms. Majorie Esman
P.O. Box 56157
New Orleans, LA 70156

Ms. Esman:

It was with considerable disappointment that I received your letter yesterday. Over the years, it seemed to me the ACLU and this Sheriff's Office had established lines of communication sufficient to resolve these types of issues and misunderstandings in person, instead of having the media act as your intermediary. Apparently I was wrong.

Had you bothered to make a single phone call to my office expressing your concerns, I would have gladly afforded you the same (instant) access to the parish jail as I provided the media yesterday. I find it unconscionable that you claim to have been "investigating" this issue for months, yet not once did you speak with anyone from this Sheriff's Office.

As a result of your refusal to examine this matter beyond speaking with a few disgruntled inmates, and your acceptance of their word over any other source, your conclusions are fraught with inaccuracies and outright falsehoods. In fact, I was so astonished at your statements I asked my medical director to prepare a comprehensive review of your allegations. I have enclosed a copy of that report for your review and education.

If you take the time to read Dr. Inglese's report, you will learn that the booking cages are used to house only the most severe cases of suicidal / homicidal inmates and then only for the shortest period of time possible. Most people who have taken the time to look fully into this issue agree this area is not ideal; however, it is the ONLY place in the facility where we can guarantee an inmate has virtually no possibility of committing suicide. History has shown this to be the case, as no successful suicide attempts have ever been carried out in the booking cages.

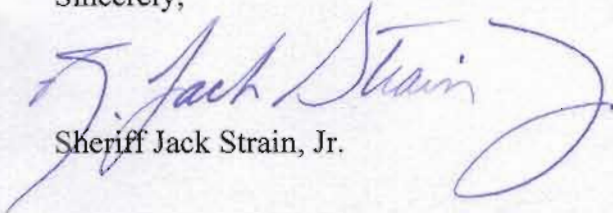
I encourage you to read carefully the attached report. Dr. Inglese is a licensed physician who has dedicated his entire career to the care of inmates. His abilities are second to

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none and his oath (as well as his passion) is to save lives. I assure you that is his primary motivation behind all he does in the jail, including his decisions related to the issue at hand. Dr. Inglese has chosen a life of public service over the potentially enormous financial opportunities in the private sector. He chose this path wholly in the name of compassion for his fellow human beings. To suggest anything else demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of this man and his calling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Strain". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sheriff Jack Strain, Jr.

Cc: Kevin Davis, St. Tammany Parish President
Mike Savant, St. Tammany Parish Council Administrator
Warden Greg Longino, St. Tammany Parish Jail
News Media