



# MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF GREG BARTLETT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Feeding Inmates**

Decatur -

THE MOST RECENT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE FEEDING OF THE PRISONERS IN THE MORGAN COUNTY JAIL IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. IN THE COURT HEARING JAN 7TH, 2009 YES, SOME INMATES TESTIFIED THAT THEY WERE NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE PORTIONS ON THEIR FOOD TRAYS AND SOME OF THE FOOD WAS NOT COOKED PROPERLY. YES, SOME INMATES TESTIFIED THAT THEY WERE GIVEN ENOUGH TO EAT AND HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE FOOD, BUT THAT WAS NOT REPORTED BY THE MEDIA.

IN THE MORGAN COUNTY JAIL, WE HAVE SEVERAL PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO CATCH AND CORRECT THOSE ISSUES AND OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED BY INMATES. I HEARD SOME OF THOSE COMPLAINTS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PREPARING FOR THE HEARING. I HAVE TAKEN CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW ALL COMPLAINTS IN MORGAN COUNTY JAIL AND MAKE SURE THOSE COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED.

I KNOW THAT THE PORTION SIZE ISSUE CAME UP, AND IT IS POSSIBLE FOR INMATES SERVING IN THE KITCHEN TO SHORT ANOTHER INMATE THEY HAD A GRUDGE WITH OR JUST DIDN'T LIKE. I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY STAFF MEMBERS AND INMATES THAT THIS MAY HAVE OCCURRED ON SOME OCCASIONS. STAFF WILL NOW DIRECTLY OBSERVE PORTION SIZES OF ALL MEALS. THE MORGAN COUNTY JAIL SERVED OVER 328,000 MEALS IN 2008 AND ONLY RECEIVED 15 COMPLAINTS ON THE ISSUE OF FOOD. THAT IS A VERY LOW NUMBER, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM A JAIL. I HAVE NEVER OR WOULD NOT EVER HAVE TOLERATED AN INMATE BEING FED INADEQUATE PORTIONS OR MEALS FOR ANY REASON. THAT NEVER HAPPENED TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

THE JUDGE MADE IT VERY CLEAR HE DID NOT AGREE WITH STATE LAW THAT SHERIFF'S SHALL KEEP AND RETAIN ANY MONEY LEFT OVER AT THE END OF THE MONTH AND HOPED THAT THE LEGISLATURE WILL CHANGE THE LAW.

THE COUNTY PRESENTED EVIDENCE FROM A LICENSED DIETICIAN AND REGISTERED NURSING STAFF THAT THE INMATES WERE RECEIVING EXCELLENT CARE IN THE MORGAN COUNTY JAIL, AND MOST INMATES GAINED WEIGHT WHILE IN JAIL. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ALL MY STAFF. I HAD NO REASON NOT TO BELIEVE THAT FACT.

I AGREE THAT ON THE SURFACE, ALABAMA STATE LAW ON THE FEEDING SYSTEM IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND AND TO DEFEND. IF A SHERIFF MAKES \$4000 OR \$1 IN A MONTHS TIME IT'S CALLED STARVING INMATES, IF AN INMATE GAINS WEIGHT IT'S CALLED WASTING TAX PAYER DOLLARS FEEDING CRIMINALS THAT MURDERED, ROBBED, RAPED AND MOLESTED THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

ALABAMA STATE LAW ALSO REQUIRES SHERIFF'S TO PAY FROM THEIR POCKET ANY SHORT FALL, AND THAT HAS HAPPENED ACROSS THE STATE ESPECIALLY IN SMALLER COUNTIES. THAT PUTS ALABAMA SHERIFF'S ACROSS THE STATE ALWAYS HAVING TO DEFEND THEMSELVES ON ONE SIDE OF THE ISSUE OR THE OTHER. THIS IS NOT JUST A SHERIFF'S ISSUE; IT'S AN ISSUE FOR THE LEGISLATURE, COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND SHERIFF'S ACROSS THE STATE TO FIX.

**About Morgan County Sheriff's Office**

The Morgan County, Alabama Sheriff's Office is headed up by Sheriff Greg Bartlett. Sheriff Bartlett is committed to keeping communities and neighborhoods safe in Morgan County.

For additional information or a sample copy, contact:

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