

DEAR READER,

10-17-19

HEY! I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA HAS IMPLEMENTED A TABLET PROGRAM FOR THE DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS, SO YUP, I CAN EMAIL WITH PEOPLE INSTEAD OF WRITING LETTERS. I LOVE IT! INSTEAD OF 1 TRANSACTION TAKING APPROXIMATELY 4 WEEKS (LETTER & RESPONSE) IT NOW ONLY TAKES HOURS. SO FRIENDSHIPS, AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS/RELATIONSHIPS, GROW AT A MORE NORMAL PACE. IT'S A HUGE IMPROVEMENT TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HERE—ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF US ON DEATH ROW.

NOW, I HEARD FROM A STAFF MEMBER THAT BECAUSE OUR KIOSKS AND TABLETS KEEP MESSING UP, AND JPAY EMPLOYEES HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO KEEP THIS SYSTEM FROM MALFUNCTIONING SO OFTEN, THE CONTRACT MIGHT GET CANCELLED. AN EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE PROBLEMS: WHEN WE SYNC UP TO OUR KIOSKS AND THEN DISCONNECT AND GO INTO OUR MEDIA APP, IT CAUSES OUR EMAILING ABILITY TO BECOME DISABLED. LIKE THERE'S A BUG IN THE MEDIA APP. AND WE HAVE TO SYNC BACK TO THE KIOSKS TO FIX IT. IT'S THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OR 4<sup>TH</sup> TIME THE EMAIL WENT DOWN SINCE FEBRUARY. HERE ON THE ROW IT'S A BIGGER PROBLEM BECAUSE WE ONLY GET TO SYNC UP TO THE KIOSKS WHEN WE GO TO YARD. WHICH IS ONLY

TWICE A WEEKS, AND WE NEVER KNOW WHEN WE'RE GOING TO THE YARD UNTIL 15-30 MINUTES BEFORE WE GO.

NOW THERE ARE KIOSKS ON EVERY FLOOR. SO WHEN THE KIOSKS OUTSIDE GO DOWN WE COULD USE THE ONES INDOORS JUST TO SYNC AND FIX OUR TABLETS. BUT WHEN I BROUGHT THIS UP WITH MY ASST. WARDEN I WAS TOLD WE ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE KIOSKS INDOORS, EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO SYNC OUR TABLETS TO FIX THEM. THE ONLY THING WE CAN USE THEM FOR IS VIDEO VISITATION "WHEN" THAT'S SET UP AND READY FOR USE. THIS INSTITUTION HAS IMPLEMENTED THAT RULE AND CAN CHANGE IT, AS IT'S A VERBAL RULE/ORDER, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO HUMANE AND SENSIBLE FOR US ON THE ROW. THE WHOLE STATES TABLET PROGRAM IS COMPLETELY UP & RUNNING BUT US ON THE ROW... WE'RE STILL WAITING ON VIDEO VISITATION & VIDEO GRAMS. WE WERE GIVEN VIDEO GRAMS, WELL WE COULD RECEIVE THEM, BUT THEY TOOK THEM OFF AGAIN.

SO... THE ROW LACKING PRIVILEGES OTHER INMATES IN OUR STATE AND EVEN ON THE SAME COMPOUND (INSTITUTION) ARE GETTING... GO FIGURE."

ANYWAYS... THERE'S PROBLEMS WITH THIS SYSTEM. "BUT" IT'S STILL A HUGE IMPROVEMENT TO THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES IN HERE. SO

I'M THANKFUL FOR IT. WANTS AND ALL!

BUT, IF THE D.O.C. (DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS) CANCELS THE CONTRACT AND WE LOSE EMAILING CAPABILITY... THAT'S GOING TO BE VERY HARD TO RE-ADAPT TO. THINKS ABOUT IT, ALL THESE MEN AND WOMEN ON DEATH ROW."SOLITARY CONFINEMENT." ABOUT 85% OF US RARELY GETTING A VISIT, VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, A ROUND TRIP ON MAIL COMMUNICATION TAKING A MONTH ON AVERAGE.... I THINKS IT'S QUITE EASY TO DETERMINE THE SUICIDE RATE GOING UP. THIS AMOUNT OF MENTAL & EMOTIONAL STIMULATION FROM QUICK & EASY LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION JUST BEING REPPED AWAY WOULD BOTHER ALL OF US GREATLY. BUT FOR NOW, ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT AND SEE HOW THIS SITUATION WILL UNRAVEL.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE KIOSK/TABLET PROGRAM, VISIT "JPAY.COM."

I ONLY EMAIL WITH A COUPLE FRIENDS, BUT THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AS QUICSLY AS WE SOMETIMES CAN HAS MADE AN ASTRONOMICAL DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE. I HOPE, ON EVERY STAR THAT HANGS IN OUR SKIES, THAT WE GET TO KEEP IT.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.

Yours Truly,  
Doug