



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Correctional Facility Medical Contract Review Saves \$250k in Broome County Tax Dollars

(TOWN OF DICKINSON) A comprehensive review of the medical provider at the Broome County Correctional Facility has rectified over \$250,000 in Broome County taxpayer-funded overpayments.

Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar joined Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, Chair of the Broome County Legislature Dan Reynolds and other county legislators to announce the savings.

“The very first bullet point in my Community F.I.R.S.T. plan is Fiscal Responsibility,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “Our priority from the start has been to create the most effective, most efficient Broome County Sheriff’s Office possible, because Broome County residents deserve to know that their Sheriff’s Office is utilizing their hard-earned tax dollars responsibly to serve and protect our community’s families.”

Shortly after taking office in January 2023, Akshar and his staff initiated a review of the County’s contract with PrimeCare Medical Inc., the Broome County Correctional Facility’s contracted medical services provider. After identifying significant disparities in contracted hours paid and actual hours provided between August 2022 and December 2022, Akshar partnered with the Broome County Department Audit and Control to conduct a comprehensive audit and review of the contract.

After comparing contracted hours and the staffing matrix agreed upon in the County’s contract to the actual hours and staff provided by PrimeCare between February 2022 through July 2023, Audit and Control found the following breaches of contract:

1. PrimeCare did not routinely provide the Broome County Sheriff’s Office with the costs incurred for services rendered as part of their monthly invoices despite the contract stipulating this requirement;
2. The net value of services not rendered by PrimeCare totaled \$257,874; and
3. The staffing matrix did not reasonably reflect the mix of nursing hours actually being

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provided, resulting in significant changes from the matrix listed in the contract.

As a result of the audit, PrimeCare agreed to the following rectifications:

1. PrimeCare would meet the staffing requirements listed in the contract;
2. PrimeCare would provide monthly invoices itemizing the services and costs for providing medical care for the incarcerated population at the Broome County Correctional Facility
3. PrimeCare would repay the outstanding \$257,874 via credited deductions in its monthly invoices over a 12-month period.

“I want to thank Sheriff Akshar for his diligence in protecting taxpayer dollars and taking steps to improve inmate health and mental healthcare at the public safety facility,” said Broome County Executive Jason Garnar. “This is the latest in a number of positive initiatives that Sheriff Akshar has championed in his first year and we enjoy his collaborative approach.”

This is another great example of working together with Sheriff Akshar to ensure tax dollars are being spent responsibly,” said Broome County Legislature Chairman & 5th District Legislator Dan J. Reynolds. “The findings of the audit, although concerning, highlight the need to hold vendors and contractors accountable. I applaud the Sheriff for taking the lead to protect taxpayers and those who receive these services.”

“The families of our community depend on PrimeCare to provide our incarcerated individuals with the healthcare, mental health and substance use disorder treatments and services they deserve, which are all contracted and paid for by public taxpayer dollars,” said Sheriff Akshar. “I appreciate their willingness to acknowledge and take responsibility for where they have come up short while working with us to remedy these disparities as soon as possible.”

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