



Contact: Tommy Adkisson, Bexar County Commissioner
Commissioner's Court, 101 W. Nueva Ste. 1029
San Antonio, TX 78205
tadkisson@bexar.org
Telephone (210) 335-2614

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commissioner Tommy Adkisson to Testify on Tent Jail Bill

Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson will be at the Capitol tomorrow, Thursday April 7, 2011 testifying in front of the County Affairs Committee in favor of HB 684 Tent Jails sponsored by State Representative Lyle Larson.

HB 684 is relating to the housing of prisoners in a tent or other facility in lieu of a conventional county jail. Four years ago, Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and then County Commissioner Lyle Larson went to Maricopa County, Arizona to meet with Sheriff Joe Arpaio to observe how Maricopa County runs their tent jail. Texas currently does not allow Counties to use tents to jail their inmates. This House Bill would give Counties the authority to adopt this same structure and could reduce the current cost of running the jail, where up to 10% of its inmates abuse the system that provides air conditioning in the summer, cable television, three square meals a day and medical care at a significant cost to the taxpayer.