



## **MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City of Staunton Statement Concerning Court Facilities**

Sept. 14, 2021 – Yesterday, under a procedure established by state law to ensure the security and good repair of court facilities, the Circuit Courts for the City of Staunton and Augusta County began a judicial process concerning the improvement of the condition of Augusta County's court facilities in the City of Staunton. Orders entered by the courts as a part of the judicial process address the condition of two buildings owned by the county, including its circuit court building at 1 East Johnson Street and its district courts building at 6 East Johnson Street.

Although the two buildings are owned by the county, the city leases a portion of the district courts building for the operation of its juvenile and domestic relations district court. The maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the county under an agreement between the county and the city.

The judicial process follows the county's unsuccessful efforts to acquire property owned by Atlantic Union Bank and located across South Augusta Street from the county's historic courthouse, on which it hoped to construct a new court facility to serve its needs for years to come.

The city cooperated fully with the county in its efforts to acquire and redevelop the bank property and is disappointed that those efforts have not met with success.

City officials will evaluate the orders entered by the courts to determine an appropriate response on the part of the city.

The city maintains its strong commitment to the preservation of the historic architecture of its downtown while simultaneously working with the county to meet its needs.

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