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STAUNTON, VA 24402

June 1, 2015

Michael L. Shull
Chairman, Augusta County Board of Supervisors
18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482

Re: Augusta County Circuit Courthouse

Dear ~~Chairman~~ Shull: *Mike*

Staunton City Council has carefully considered the County's proposal of April 8, 2015, outlining terms acceptable to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors for the maintenance of the Augusta County Circuit Courthouse in downtown Staunton. The approval of state tax credits by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the updated Frazier study have made clear that the County's historic circuit courthouse can be renovated to meet the operational, security, and accessibility needs of the court and, at the same time, preserve an important symbol of our region's shared history and culture. City Council has also received public input over the last several months. With those considerations, City Council offers the following:

Guaranteed City Contribution: \$5,000,000, maximum, comprised of the following:

State Historic Tax Credits: \$1,600,000, estimated conservatively, to be applied to the renovation project.

Final City Cash Contribution: \$3,400,000, estimated, with the amount of the City's final cash contribution to be adjusted upward or downward based on the actual project costs and amount of tax credits for which the project qualifies.

Financing: Debt to be issued and carried by the County, as offered. The City recommends no more than a 20-year term to avoid excessive interest charges, the burden of which would fall on both City and County taxpayers.

Parking for Persons with Disabilities: The City will accommodate the County's request.

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Parking Validation: Again, to accommodate the County, the City will discontinue fees for parking in the Wharf parking lot, so it will be available at no cost to all users, including those on court business, on a first come, first served basis.

Previously Offered Items: Waiver of fees, County use of Barristers Row and parking lot as staging areas, and County use of Cochran Judicial Center and City Council Chambers, as detailed in City's March 2, 2015 letter, are reaffirmed.

Consolidation of the Courts: The County and the City will pursue, diligently and in good faith with a strong and sustained mutual commitment to success, all state and local governmental actions necessary to achieve the consolidation of their respective circuit courts, general district courts and juvenile and domestic relations district courts in Staunton, and will proceed with consolidation expeditiously. It is our hope that consolidation can be accomplished initially using the City's Cochran Judicial Center, Augusta County's Circuit Courthouse and the County's District Courts Building, resulting in operational and financial efficiencies for both localities.

We look forward to hearing from you and then to our respective senior staffs' work together toward the preparation of a binding agreement both governing bodies can approve this summer. We suggest that senior staff begin their efforts in the next couple of weeks so that an agreement can be finalized before the end of July.

Sincerely,



Carolyn W. Dull
Mayor

cc: Patrick J. Coffield, County Administrator
Staunton City Council
Stephen F. Owen, City Manager