



Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Floyd Bonner, Jr., Sheriff

January 8, 2019

Honorable Van Turner, Chairman
Shelby County Board of Commissioners
160 N. Main Street, Suite 600
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Via e-mail

RE: Design/Construction New Youth Facility

Dear Chairman Turner:

I am grateful to the Mayor, you, and all of the Commissioners for your efforts on behalf of our detained youth. A new education, housing and recreation facility is sorely needed and has been my most urgent priority. Every child in my custody, either at Juvenile Court or at Jail East awaiting trial as an adult, is deemed innocent in the eyes of the law, regardless of the very serious allegations.

Our vision is give the youth the skills and confidence to have productive futures, with supportive family, friends, or mentors to guide them. We are doing more to enhance family ties, both through the Mayor's free phone calls, and allowing family participation at important events.

These youth arrive traumatized and their medical and psychological needs are significant. To serve them properly, we must have more space for our gifted and passionate professionals. Our teachers need classroom and vocational education space; our medical/mental health professionals, therapists, counselors, mentors, and volunteers need offices and rooms for group activities; the youth need green outdoor and appropriate indoor space to exercise and burn off their energy. We need smaller housing units to ensure appropriate supervision with an emphasis on mentoring.

My vision is to serve all of our youth under one roof, ensuring continuity of care and efficiency by consolidating all of our adolescent service specialists in one location. There should be no interruption simply because a child has been transferred. Yes, the transferred youth must be house separately but they can all be educated together and receive professional services from the same providers.

I pray every day that there will be fewer youth in our custody but I must also be practical and plan appropriately. The Sheriff's Office should never again face the heartbreaking task of having to place a child outside of Shelby County simply because we have no space.

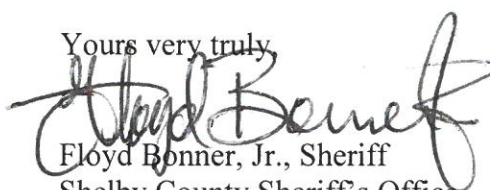


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National juvenile detention expert David W. Roush, PhD is now under contract to the Sheriff's Office and his work with us has already begun. While he served as the Department of Justice ("DOJ") facilities consultant, he urged us to find a new space, properly configured to provide a full range of activities including programming/education and recreation. We look forward to continuing our progress under his guidance.

I am sorry that I will not be able appear in person on Wednesday but want you to know how important this Resolution is to the Sheriff's Office. My staff will be present and will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your support.

Yours very truly,

Floyd Bonner, Jr., Sheriff
Shelby County Sheriff's Office

cc: Honorable Lee Harris, Mayor

Patrice Thomas, CAO

Honorable Mark Billingsley, Chairman Pro Tempore

Honorable Amber Mills, Board of Commissioners

Honorable David C. Bradford, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Mick Wright, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Michael Whaley, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Willie F. Brooks, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Tami Sawyer, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Mickell Lowery, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Edmund Ford, Jr., Board of Commissioners

Honorable Reginald Milton, Board of Commissioners

Honorable Eddie S. Jones, Board of Commissioners

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Honorable Brandon Morrison, Board of Commissioners

Marlinee Iverson, County Attorney

Enclosure

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