



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

THOMAS C. HENRY, MAYOR

November 16, 2009

Dear Community Leader:

Over the past few months, Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne have made real progress in finding a mutual solution to the space needs of local government. The jointly constituted Facilities Working Group's report suggested four well-considered options. The two that co-locate both police departments in the same building, either the City-County Building or 200 East Berry, are now being seriously explored.

While City and County governments have taken the lead on this issue, this is a community-based decision that merits strong input from the private sector. It is a decision that has the potential to spur greater cooperation and cost savings, to the benefit of all taxpayers and residents. I know you share my commitment to building a more competitive community with more responsive and effective local governments. That is why I need your help.

Over the next few weeks, County government will be examining the cost projections that were secured from Design Collaborative and Schenkel Shultz, two respected, independent local architectural firms. Their numbers are well within the City's expectations for renovation and moving costs.

Both plans meet the points of consensus that the City and County have shared throughout this process, namely:

- The common goal of a joint solution for our building and space needs;
- The need to better serve the public and use our resources wisely;
- The desirability of greater collaboration;
- The benefit of a central location;
- The importance of finding a community-based solution that creates lasting value and opportunity;
- The necessity of an accelerated timeline; and
- Co-location imperatives that ensure the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective services that increase citizen access and promote operational efficiencies for all residents.

More than ever in these tough economic times, I know we are all determined to save tax dollars and better serve our community. The day-to-day management of local government is a key part of that stewardship.

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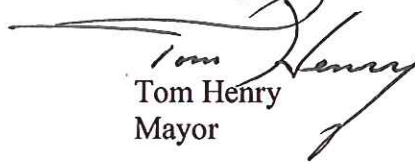
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Given the many advantages of co-located usage of the City-County Building and 200 East Berry and the reasonableness of the cost estimates, please join me in urging our County leadership to seize this moment and move forward with one of these options. Please contact them, along with elected City officials, in whatever way is easiest for you, but please do it today. As always, I welcome your ideas and opinions.

As we envision together the common future we all will share, this is a decision that is right for our community long-term. Let's not allow this moment to pass. Let's join together now to chart a new course.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our community strong.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tom Henry
Mayor