

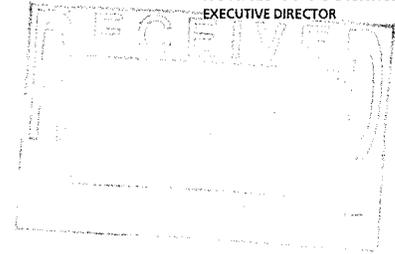


NEW YORK STATE
Unified Court System

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

LAWRENCE K. MARKS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

RONALD P. YOUNKINS, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



May 26, 2016

Hon. Michael P. Hein, County Executive
County of Ulster
County Office Building, 6th Floor
244 Fair Street Kingston, NY 12401

Dear County Executive Hein:

I am writing in response to your request for the position of the Unified Court System with respect to the proposal to relocate the Ulster County Family courthouse to the Business Resource Center (BRC) on Ulster Avenue in the town of Ulster. As the County is aware the current Family Court facility, in its present state, is inadequate for the court's needs.

After months of meetings, site visits and discussions, the court system has chosen to participate in a design exercise with the County's architectural consultant to evaluate the feasibility of locating the Family Court at the BRC. It is our view that the BRC is uniquely suited to be developed into a first-rate Family Court facility that complies with the Chief Judge's facility guidelines, achieves compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, is technologically up-to-date, and, most importantly, will provide the people of Ulster County with a courthouse that is appropriate for the important work of this court.

In our view, the benefits of the BRC site include the following:

- Based on the architect's feasibility study of May 13, 2016, the site appears to provide suitable and sufficient space for the Family Court, as well as room for future growth;
- The proposed site provides ample parking as well as access to public transportation;
- The BRC is owned by the County, and there would therefore be no acquisition costs;
- Renovation of an existing structure, rather than construction of a new building, should reduce the project cost and expedite completion of the project;
- The proposed site would co-locate the Family Court with Ulster County Department of Social Services and other county agencies that work closely with the Family Court, thereby increasing efficiencies and reducing costs for the Court, the County, and their clients;
- Renovations can be completed without any disruption to existing Family Court operations.

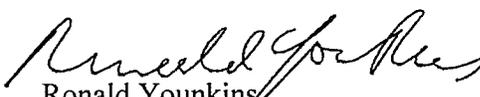
In our view, the primary concern about the BRC site is that relocation of the Family Court outside of the Kingston City limits is subject to voter referendum (County Law 216). Nonetheless, we are confident that when all of the advantages of the BRC site are considered, and in view of the lack of a reasonable alternative within the City's limits, and the possibility of the imposition of financial

sanctions upon the County if this project is further delayed, the County, the legislature and the voting public will conclude that relocating the Court to the BRC is the best solution for the County's Family Court facilities problems.

This has been a challenging process for the County and the court system. The courts have been patient with the County's process, but we expect that the County will now advance this project as quickly as possible, and we look forward to working together to ensure that the people of Ulster County have the highest quality Family Court facility that they deserve.

If you have any questions or require further assistance or information from the court system, please do not hesitate to contact me, or William Clark, Counsel for Capital Planning, at 212-428-2965.

Very truly yours,


Ronald Younkings

c: Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Hon. Karen K. Peters
Hon. Michael V. Cocco
Hon. Thomas A. Breslin
Hon. Kenneth Ronk, Jr.
William Clark, Esq.