



Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

DISTRICT COURT CHAMBERS
POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
500 MULBERRY STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309-4238

ARTHUR E. GAMBLE
CHIEF JUDGE

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December 21, 2017

Dallas County Board of Supervisors
Dallas County Courthouse
902 Court Street – Ste. 100
Adel, IA 50003

Delivered via email

Dear Supervisors:

Over the past couple of weeks, Supervisor Mark Hanson and District Court Administrator Christopher Patterson have been engaged in productive discussions concerning the facility needs of Dallas County and the Fifth Judicial District. Supervisor Hanson expressed Dallas County's priority of consolidating the motor vehicle and property tax operations of the Treasurer's Office on the first floor of the courthouse as soon as possible. Mr. Patterson conveyed the court's priorities of constructing of additional courtrooms and keeping Juvenile Court Services within the secure environment of the courthouse. Building upon our discussions with Supervisor Hanson, we have developed a proposal that satisfies the immediate needs of both Dallas County and the courts while minimizing construction costs for county taxpayers.

First, we propose to move the Clerk of Court's office to the west wing of the second floor of the courthouse to space recently vacated by the County Assessor. This would provide adequate space for the Clerk with minimal construction. The only modification that would be necessary would be a private office for the Clerk of Court.

Second, the Treasurer would move to the office vacated by the Clerk of Court on the east wing of the first floor of the courthouse. This space has a private office for the Treasurer and open space for the Treasurer's consolidated operations. The Property Tax Division currently located on the northwest side of the second floor would move to the new first floor office.

Third, the Recorder would move from the east wing of the second floor to the west wing of the second floor to space vacated by the Treasurer. When this move is accomplished, the entire east wing of the second floor of the courthouse would be vacant, as the Auditor has already moved out of the building.

Fourth, we propose the construction of two courtrooms, judge chambers and associated offices on the east side of the second floor. We would work with your architects to program these courtrooms to maximize the available space as efficiently as possible.

Finally, we propose the conversion of the space formerly occupied by County IT on the northwest side of the first floor into a small courtroom to be used by magistrates and other judges for non-jury proceedings. Magistrates would conduct initial appearance in this courtroom to reduce the number of inmates escorted elsewhere in the building by Sheriff's deputies.

We believe this is a cost effective solution for Dallas County because it would take advantage of existing facilities, significantly reducing construction expenses. Juvenile Court Services would remain in their current offices avoiding any construction costs and moving expenses that would otherwise be necessary to relocate their confidential offices. This is a substantial benefit to the children and families of Dallas County because of the security of the courthouse and the convenient proximity to the courts.

We sincerely appreciate the attention Supervisor Hanson has given to the needs of the courts in Dallas County. We believe this proposal accomplishes the goals Supervisor Hanson has communicated to us. At the same time, it would satisfy the needs of the court for the next few years. We look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this proposal with the Board of Supervisors in the near future.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur E. Gamble".

ARTHUR E. GAMBLE, CHIEF JUDGE
Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

AEG/jw