BOARD OF COUNTYCOMMISSIONERS
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2010

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Commissioner Akin Akinyemi

SUBJECT: PSCC's Consent to Use $100,000 Toward the Palmer Munroe Teen Center

At the January 26, 2010 regular Commission meeting, the Board supported the creation of a teen center at the Palmer Munroe Community Center in the amount of $150,000. The Board's support of the Palmer Munroe Teen Center was contingent on several factors including the consent of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) since the Board would be utilizing $100,000 from the jail diversion account for the proposed teen center.

The PSCC considered this issue during a special meeting on February 11, 2010. After providing a summary of the Board's actions from the January 26, 2010 Commission meeting and an overview of the proposed teen center, several members of the PSCC were distressed about the long-term costs of the teen center and requested assurances that this was a one-time expenditure from the jail diversion account. I affirmed the Board's direction to consider the FY 2011 funding for the teen center during our summer budget workshops exclusive of the funding set aside for the PSCC each year.

Another issue raised during the PSCC meeting is the need to identify future funding to maintain the expansion of the mental health court program that has been funded by a three year state grant. With the limited availability of funds, several PSCC members expressed concerns about making a three year commitment to the teen center and wished to identify competing programs for funding for Board consideration such as the mental health court and vocational training programs.

Security at the proposed teen center is a priority for the PSCC. State Attorney Willie Meggs noted the need for a heavy law enforcement presence at all times. Although the proposed budget for the teen center includes funding for security, representatives from both the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department voiced concerns about the limited availability of law enforcement personnel to offer a physical presence at the proposed teen center but remain committed to the project.

With all of these concerns acknowledged, the PSCC did consent to the use of the $100,000 from the jail diversion account to be used toward establishing the Palmer Munroe Teen Center.

cc: Public Safety Coordinating Council
Honorable Commissioner Gillum
Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Vincent Long, Deputy County Administrator
Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator
Ken Morris, Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development