Leon County

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July 15, 2009

Ms. Anita Favors-Thompson, City Manager
City of Tallahassee
300 S. Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Anita:

As you know, at the April 21, 2009 County Commission meeting, Chairman Desloge raised the issue of the recent City of Tallahassee Charter Review Committee's recommendation to the City Commission regarding the consolidation of County - City Growth Management functions. At that time, the Board directed staff to prepare an agenda item to present options and recommendations on the how the County might support this initiative.

In response to the Board direction of April 21, 2009, staff presented an agenda item at the June 9, 2009 budget workshop (Attachment #1). After a thorough discussion on the issue, the Board unanimously approved staff recommendation to:

"Direct to prepare an agenda item for Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the broad tenets and the mutual commitment for pursuing a functional consolidation of County and City growth management functions upon passage of which will be sent to the City Commission for consideration. Include in this MOU utilizing the Team Option/Approach to conduct the evaluation to realize the maximum potential benefits, to achieve the most cost effective result, to avoid any unintended consequences and to ensure consistency with broader objectives, and to incorporate the County and City Building Inspection and Joint City-County Planning in the evaluation".

Based on this direction, staff drafted a proposed MOU, which I e-mailed to you back on June 30, 2009. In your response, you indicated that you would read it and forward any comments to me by the end of the week. I never

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received any comments, so I assumed that it met with your satisfaction. I should mention again that the MOU addresses the concern that you had previously expressed to me about my identifying specific City staff in the team approach introduced and recommended in the April 21, 2009 agenda item. Because of your concern, I included the following language in the MOU:

The County Administrator and the City Manager will appoint the staff members on the team, oversee the work of the team, will elevate this project to the top priority of the respective staffs and will provide this team the necessary resources of the respective organizations to accomplish the task (Section III.(b).).

On July 14, 2009 I presented the proposed MOU to the County Commission (Attachment #2). At that time, the Board unanimously approved the MOU. I am confident that you will find that the MOU is written in a way which provides adequate flexibility and provides the necessary clarification up-front as to mutual agreement on the policy objective and the work effort - which will provide guidance necessary to inform decisions, clarify and reach consensus on decisions and provide the basis for an Interlocal Agreement to effectuate the functional consolidation.

As has been discussed at Mayor/Chair meetings, I recognize that the City Commission on May 13, 2009 appointed Commissioner Lightsey to represent the City Commission in working with the County Commission on consolidating the City and County Building Inspection Departments only. I think that you will find from all of the information that I have presented here, that the action endorsed by the County Commission through the approval of this MOU will provide for a process to most effectively ensure the success of achieving the goal of creating a single, functionally consolidated growth and environmental management and building inspection entity for our community.

I am formally requesting that you agenda this MOU for City Commission consideration at your City Commission meeting of August 19, 2009. If for

whatever reason that is not acceptable, I would ask that you formally provide a response as to the City's intentions with respect to the MOU by that date. I eagerly await your response and greatly look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Parwez Alam
County Administrator

cc: Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Vincent S. Long, Deputy County Administrator
David McDevitt, Growth & Environmental Management

Attachments:

1. June 9, 2009 Budget Workshop Item on Functional Consolidation of County-City Growth and Environmental Management and Building Inspection

2. July 14, 2009 Agenda Item on County - City Growth & Environmental Management / Building Inspection Functional Consolidation Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)