



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 606-5302 www.leoncountyfl.gov

Attachment # 4
Page 1 of 2

Commissioners

BILL PROCTOR
District 1

March 22, 2011

JANE G. SAULS
District 2

The Honorable Mayor John Marks
300 South Adams Street

JOHN DAILEY
District 3

Tallahassee, FL 32301

BRYAN DESLOGE
District 4

Dear Mayor Marks:

KRISTIN DOZIER
District 5

NICK MADDOX
At-Large

AKIN AKINYEMI
At-Large

PARWEZ ALAM
County Administrator

HERBERT W.A. THIELE
County Attorney

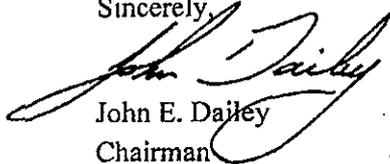
During the County's FY 2012 Budget Workshop on March 17, 2011, my colleagues and I carefully reviewed 16 discussion items to provide early guidance to staff in preparation of next year's budget. In light of the County's anticipated \$13 million shortfall, we are continually challenged with providing high quality services to the citizens of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. During our deliberations, the Board identified the continuance of the Court Mental Health Program as a critical program in our community and is seeking a partnership with the City to sustain its long term viability.

As you know, people with mental illnesses that go untreated and unmonitored pose a great deal of concern for both the County and City Commissions as we have invested much time and energy to help this population out of our jail and homeless shelters. The Court Mental Health Program was created in 2008, funded by a three year state grant, to attend to mentally ill clients that enter the criminal justice system by:

- Quickly disposing of their cases in a timely manner so they do not languish in the jail;
- Implementing pretrial and post-adjudication alternatives to incarceration; and,
- Offering competency restoration services in coordination with our local providers of mental health services to ensure the continuity of care.

I hope that we can discuss this issue further at the next Mayor/Chair meeting and find a solution for the County and City to continue to provide the Court Mental Health Program for our mentally ill population. In order for the County to proceed with its budget process, I would also respectfully request a formal response from the City by May 16, 2011.

Sincerely,



John E. Dailey
Chairman

cc: Leon County Board of County Commissioners
The Honorable Judge Charles Francis
Parvez Alam, County Administrator
Vincent Long, Deputy County Administrator
Ken Morris, Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development
Kendra Brown, Mental Health Coordinator