

MARTY K. LAWING
County Manager



GUILFORD COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

April 12, 2018

Mr. William Lassiter
Deputy Commissioner
Div. of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201

RE: Expansion of the Guilford County Juvenile Detention Center

Dear Mr. Lassiter:

We have discussed on several occasions this year the Department of Public Safety's need for additional juvenile detention beds as the result of the N.C. General Assembly's passage of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act which increases the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include crimes committed by 16 and 17 year olds. After December 1, 2019, 16 and 17 year olds committing Class A-G felonies shall no longer be confined in adult detention facilities which creates the need for increased capacity in juvenile facilities.

Since our last discussion, county staff has discussed the need for additional juvenile detention beds in the state with the Guilford County Board of Commissioners. We have received assistance from a consulting architect on potential capacity expansions of the county's current 44 bed center by 32 or 48 beds and evaluated construction and potential operating costs for a larger facility. You can see from the preliminary drawings that the new space includes the confinement space and dayrooms as well as the required educational and recreational space. The estimated cost to design and construct the 32 bed expansion is \$7.5 million and the design and construction costs for the 48 bed expansion is \$9.5 million. The increased operating costs associated the expansion including personnel, supplies and materials and medical and food services is estimated to range between \$1.8 and \$2.1 million depending on the expansion capacity.

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The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners interest and intention to agree to expand the county juvenile detention center to house juveniles from other counties in North Carolina if the General Assembly will provide capital funding to cover 100 percent of the actual design and construction costs of the expansion. Depending on the occupancy rate of the facility we believe it is possible that the current per diem rate of \$224 could cover the additional operating expense. However, we would seek an agreement with the Department of Public Safety to provide supplemental funding to cover any operating shortfalls that could occur as the result of low occupancy.

I know that you are evaluating alternatives to provide the needed juvenile detention capacity in the most cost effective manner for the state. Please let me know if you need additional information about this request.

Sincerely,

Marty K. Lawing
County Manager

CC: Michael Halford
Doug Logan
Robert McNiece
Harley Will