

**Edwards,Michelle**

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**From:** Bennett,Duke A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 3:42 PM  
**To:** Azar, George; Auler,Amy; Garrison,Neil; Nation,Todd; Crossen,Martha; Morris,Don;  
Nasser,Karrum; Elliott,Earl; DeBaun,Curtis  
**Cc:** Edwards,Michelle; Felling,Darrell  
**Subject:** re: City Hall jail location comments  
**Attachments:** Jail Location Position.docx

**FILED**

DEC 11 2018

**CITY CLERK**

All,

Please see attached correspondence.

Mayor Duke A Bennett

## Jail Location Position Statement

I am providing this information in order to once again communicate my position regarding any possible consideration of locating the new Vigo County Jail on the current government complex site.

First of all, it is obvious that this community needs a much larger jail facility to properly house inmates. In addition, this new facility must have adequate space (either inside the jail or on the jail grounds) for the proper delivery of mental health and addictions services. The location must also support future jail expansion (if needed).

My preference for the location of the new jail has always been that it should be placed within the city limits and be as centrally located as possible. This is important so that our city police officers (along with all other law enforcement officers) can efficiently transport those persons who have been arrested to the jail, get them processed, and then return to patrol duties as quickly as possible. A jail located outside of the city does not accomplish that goal.

Several years ago, the County Commissioners and I had an informal conversation regarding possible future improvements to the government campus including the parking lot and the fountain area. The jail was briefly mentioned and my response was that I would be open to a discussion but that any new facility (or expansion of the existing jail) requiring some of the City Hall parking lot, must include a county funded parking garage. There has never been any formal discussion with this administration on this matter or any related proposal submitted regarding a new jail on the City Hall Parking Lot.

Once the Commissioners decided that they were going with the "pod style" jail design that basically ended any potential discussion as that particular design concept will not work at the existing complex site due to space limitations. In addition, the "Turn to the River Project" has been in the works for about three years now and I fully support the concept and have also made a financial commitment. Having said that, I will reiterate that if the County Commissioners would decide to reconsider a different jail building design that would work at the current government complex (including a parking garage and fully incorporating the "Turn to the River Project"), I remain open to having those discussions.

Mayor Duke A Bennett

December 11, 2018