BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY

FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
141 PRYOR STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

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January 25, 2006

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Offer for City Facilities

Dear Mayor Franklin:

Thank you for your reply of January 18, 2006, regarding the former Municipal Court Building and the City Detention Center. We appreciate the time, thought and effort that went into consideration of the County's offer letter of December 30, 2005.

In your Counter Proposal One, details of the timeline constraints associated with the City's contract to sell City Hall East to Ponce Park, LLC, were provided. Although these timelines may be difficult to meet, we do believe it is in our mutual best interests to continue negotiations on the purchase of the former Municipal Court Building.

Regarding available bed space in the City Detention Center, your letter states that "the City could only commit to 500 beds … at a rate approaching $72 per day." Given our current overcrowding situation, we would like to move forward on discussing the details of this particular matter.

It is timely and perhaps fortuitous that the City and the County recently have had several issues of mutual interest that have resulted in a beneficial conclusion for both governments. The County has been a partner in several key City projects, such as:

- Providing $350,000 towards the Gateway Homeless Shelter;
- Supporting the change in the Westside TAD to allow for $25 million to be allocated to the Gateway Homeless Shelter;
- Providing $100,000 in support of the Atlanta Streetcar Project over the past two years;
- Entering into an agreement with the City to assume responsibility for the City's traffic court jury proceedings, allowing the City to move forward with its plan to abolish the local traffic court with a savings of at least $25 million to $35 million over the next five years;

- Approving the Atlantic Station Tax Allocation District;
- Approving the Beltline Tax Allocation District in support of the ambitious vision for our Capitol City;

The City's most recent announcement regarding the proposed development of Westside Park offers yet another opportunity for the City and County to continue our productive partnership. We understand that the Bellwood Quarry is the site proposed by the City for the Westside Park. As you know, the County owns this site and is the lessor of a mining lease which runs through May 2034. On January 23, 2006, the County received an offer from the City to purchase the Bellwood Quarry for $11 million. However, our lessee, Vulcan Construction Materials has not yet had formal discussions with the County about a lease transfer and under what circumstances such a transfer might be approved. As I am sure you are well aware, both the transfer of the leasehold interest and subsequent sale of the Quarry property require the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

We believe that the current situation presents a unique opportunity to resolve the former Municipal Court Building, Detention Center and Quarry issues. To that end, we are committed to devoting the staff resources necessary to negotiate a comprehensive agreement that would be mutually advantageous to both the City and Fulton County. I have asked the County Manager, Tom Andrews, to contact Lynnette Young to set up as soon as possible a meeting between the two of us, along with appropriate staff.

Sincerely,

Chair Karen C. Handel
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

cc: Fulton County Board of Commissioners
Atlanta City Council Members
Thomas C. Andrews, Fulton County Manager
Lynnette Young, Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office
O.V. Brantley, Fulton County Attorney
Linda DiSantis, City Attorney, City of Atlanta
David Edwards, Office of the Mayor, City of Atlanta