BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY

FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

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March 13, 2006

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

Re: City Detention Center and Municipal Courthouse

Dear Mayor Franklin:

Thank you for your continued willingness to work with Fulton County on the acquisition of jail beds and the former Municipal Courthouse. As you probably know, members of your staff, representatives from the United States Marshals Service, and representatives from Fulton County met on March 2, 2006 to discuss jail bed usage in the Atlanta Jail and whether additional beds could be provided to Fulton County. I would like to provide a summary of the meeting and suggest how we can continue to work together on this issue to seek a mutually acceptable solution:

- The City indicated that the Detention Center has a total capacity of approximately 1300 beds, but due to restrictions of pod design and inmate classification (male/female, medical, etc) about 10-15% of the beds are not available for use at any given point in time.

- The City has obligated 300 beds through a contract with the United States Marshals Service and has verbally obligated another 50 beds to the Marshal. The City also provides between 150 and 200 beds to ICE. The City is under no contractual obligation to provide the ICE beds.

- The City's need for beds for City ordinance violators averages between 400-600 per day depending on time of the year and level of police activity. The City pointed out they are entering the "peak" season for admissions which is typically the summer months.

- Chief Pocock indicated that the jail population as of March 2, 2006 was approximately 1100 with Fulton County currently using 175 beds.

- Marshal Mecum indicated that the Marshal's Service has the need for the City beds and is looking for additional beds throughout the state. He also stated that he does not have the authority to terminate the contract with the City, and any contract changes would need to be handled by his headquarters in Washington, D.C.

- The City representatives agreed to continue to provide the County with 175 beds. Based on this meeting, it appears that the only possibility for additional beds would be those currently utilized by ICE. If the County were to use those beds, ICE would need to find another alternative.

As part of the ongoing negotiations, Fulton County would like the City to assure that we can continue to utilize 175 beds at the Atlanta Jail. Additionally, we would like the City to agree that the County may utilize additional City beds, both in the short term and the long term, as beds become available. Your assurances on these requests would assist the County with management of jail population.

On another issue of mutual concern to both the County and the City, I would like to further the discussion on the sale of the Bellwood Quarry. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work on these issues.

Sincerely,

Karen C Handel

Karen C. Handel, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Fulton County Government

cc: Atlanta City Council
Board of Commissioners
Thomas C. Andrews, County Manager
O.V. Brantley, County Attorney