

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 21, 2004

Charles W. Brooke, Mayor  
Davenport City Council Members  
Davenport City Hall  
226 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Re: Creation of Scott County Public Safety Authority

Dear Mayor Brooke and Council Members:

The Scott County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically approved the acceptance of the “bricks and mortar” jail facilities solution as presented by the Community Jail Alternatives and Advisory Committee (CJAAC) at our May 20, 2004 Board meeting. This CJAAC recommendation was the result of several years of study and community input. This proposal involves the \$29.7 million renovation/expansion of existing facilities at our two current jail building sites at 4715 Tremont Street and downtown with the bed expansion at the downtown jail site (see attached memo).

For the last several years the County has had ongoing discussions with the City of Davenport regarding various public safety building areas that could be shared and not duplicated in both the County’s jail project and the City’s planned law enforcement center project. It was determined that forensic lab and evidence storage areas could be in the City’s planned law enforcement center with centralized booking and communications housed in the County’s renovated/expanded jail facilities. This will alleviate the need for the City to include holding cells and communications space in your planned facility. This will also allow for continued review and study by the Blue Ribbon Committee of possible joint dispatching for the community, consolidating the current four dispatch centers (Scott County, Davenport, Bettendorf, and MEDIC) into one center.

In recognition of this public safety joint collaboration between the City and the County, the Board of Supervisors is requesting that the City join with the County in creating a Scott County Public Safety Authority as allowed for in Chapter 346.27 of the Iowa Code. The Authority would be responsible for the renovation/expansion of the County’s existing jail facilities as recommended by CJAAC. The authority would place the referendum question on the November 2, 2004 general election ballot. All registered voters of the County will be entitled to vote on the question and an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast will allow for the issuance of the bonds for the project.

**Letter to Mayor Brooke and Davenport City Council Members**

**May 21, 2004**

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I have attached a memorandum prepared by the County's bond counsel, Dorsey & Whitney LLP regarding the actions necessary by both the County and the City to create this authority. It is my understanding that the City uses the same bond counsel firm. Dorsey also established a like authority for Muscatine and Muscatine County to build their new jail facility in 1990. Also attached are the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for this authority which are required to be approved by both the Council and the Board to create this authority. These documents have been reviewed and discussed with the City's corporate counsel and the County Attorney.

The authority would consist of a three member commission. One member is appointed by the City (must reside in the City of Davenport), one by the County (must reside outside of the City of Davenport), and one jointly by both the City and the County (may reside anywhere in Scott County). The City and County (and the City of Bettendorf) appointed six citizens to the Blue Ribbon Committee last fall to identify areas of possible joint services among the cities and county. It is recommended that the three authority members be selected from this group. The three recommended citizens are Wilma Drummond (City appointee), Carolyn Scheibe (County appointee), and Dale Barber (joint appointee). All are willing to serve and are supportive of CJAAC's jail facilities recommendation.

The Board respectfully requests that the creation of a Scott County Public Safety Authority be placed on the City Council's June 10, 2004 Finance Committee meeting agenda for discussion and forwarding to the June 14, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting and then the June 16, 2004 Council Meeting for formal creation approval. Several Board of Supervisors members, Dave Claypool from Dorsey & Whitney LLP, and Ray Wierson, County Administrator, will be present at your meetings to further discuss this request and to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to working with the City on this project and appreciate the excellent city-county relationship that currently exists. We have appreciated the opportunity to play a role in past City projects such as River Renaissance, the John O'Donnell Stadium renovation, RiverCenter project, and the Quad City Sports Center. The creation of this authority recognizes this continued intergovernmental cooperation.

Sincerely,



Carol Schaefer, Chairman  
Scott County Board of Supervisors

Attachments

Cc: Board members  
Dennis Conard, County Sheriff  
Mike Bladel, Davenport Police Chief  
Ray Wierson, County Administrator  
Craig Malin, Davenport City Administrator