

**Administration**  
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2  
Bunnell, FL 32110



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Mr. Tom Bexley  
Flagler County Clerk of Court and Comptroller  
1769 East Moody Boulevard, Bldg. 1  
Bunnell, FL 32110

July 3, 2019

Dear Clerk of Court Bexley:

As you know, on May 21, 2019 the Board of County Commissioners gave me direction under the legal provision as the property owner, to secure more space at the Justice Center. More specifically, to reallocate space to accommodate the Sheriff's office for the next two to three years while a new district office is being built. While I have had discussions with you, I appreciate your claims of providing ample space and not being able to provide more space without compromising your own operations, it's time for us to move forward with a resolution together. I also commend you and your staff for the cooperation displayed during these trying times and for demonstrating an abundance of good faith in working to resolve these issues. I applaud you on trying to remedy the space needs of Sheriff Staly as best you can under these most difficult circumstances. However, today I write to you in the spirit of cooperation, recognizing the duties, obligations and responsibilities of your office to the community in which you serve. Yet, the time has come for County Administration to step in during this impasse to provide additional room within the Justice Center for the Sheriff's daily operational needs.

We have explored other options; however, they would be more costly and take time. The lease of new temporary space is not in the best interest of our taxpayers and would be in the millions of dollars over the next two to three years. We need to have a realistic temporary solution that is the most cost effective and can be done quickly until a new district office can be built in Palm Coast. The County has exhausted all reasonable remedies and the current temporary arrangement for the Sheriff's Office is not adequate. Now that a long-term plan is set with a clear end date, we must now take swift action to resolve a better interim solution.

While it is never my intention or the intention of the Board of County Commissioners to put the needs of one constitutional officer above another's we have been attempting to promote cooperation with and among all of the stakeholders involved. We feel it is in the public's best interest if we are able to resolve these differences cooperatively. We recognize that the Justice Center constructed over a decade ago was planned with 30-year growth built into the facility. Only recently at the beginning of this decade did

**Charles Ericksen, Jr.**  
District 1

**Greg Hansen**  
District 2

**David Sullivan**  
District 3

**Joe Mullins**  
District 4

**Donald O'Brien Jr.**  
District 5

we start to see growth kicking in, which in its current capacity still has ample space. Although it is challenging to rearrange your personnel and attempt to accommodate your operations, it is clearly our only realistic solution to fix the Sheriff's fragmented operation.

With that said, pursuant to instruction from the Board of County Commissioners, I am requesting you to make available an additional 5,000 square feet of office space on the first floor of the Justice Center by July 31, 2019. Accordingly, should you need it; I will make available County resources to assist you and your office with the relocation of personnel, records, or equipment within other space at the Justice Center.

Sincerely,



Heidi Petito  
Acting County Administrator

C:     Flagler County Board of County Commissioners  
          Sheriff Rick Staly  
          County Administrator Jerry Cameron  
          County Attorney Al Hadeed