NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Outlines Next Steps for County Courthouse Construction

Jacksonville, Fl. – July 20, 2005 - Mayor John Peyton outlined an updated plan for proceeding with construction on the new Duval County Courthouse project today.

On Monday, July 11th, James C. Rinaman, Jr., Chairman of the Mayor's Courthouse Advisory Committee gave Mayor Peyton a priority ranking of options on how to proceed. Mayor Peyton plans to ask the Jacksonville City Council to adopt Option 4 of their report.

"Jim Rinaman and his committee have undertaken a thoughtful and thorough review and I appreciate their service. Time after time, Jim Rinaman has answered the call to be of service to the community on tough issues and I want to personally thank Jim – as well as the entire committee - for his efforts on the courthouse review project", said Mayor Peyton.

Option 4 calls for construction of a new 388,000 square foot criminal courthouse on the new site acquired on the western edge of downtown. This plan will also result in the relocation of the State Attorney into a renovated old Federal Courthouse, a renovation of the Ed Ball Building for use by the Public Defender and we plan to perform limited renovations of the existing courthouse on Bay Street which will continue to house civil court functions for the present time.

Mayor Peyton has asked the Special Council Committee dealing with the courthouse and chaired by Council President Hyde to review this option expeditiously. Upon approval by the Jacksonville City Council, the city will begin a process of soliciting bids for a firm to design specifications for the new building.

"I know some will be disappointed that we do not plan to build the entire complex right now. While I respect this opinion, I will not recommend spending more money than we have available. We must live within our means and Option 4 allows us to do this," said the Mayor.

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