



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
JOHN PEYTON
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor, Chief Judge Agree on Plan to Move Forward With Construction of Duval County Courthouse City Council to Consider Plan in January

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. December 22, 2005 - Mayor John Peyton announced today that he and Chief Judge Donald R. Moran have finalized an agreement on the plan to proceed on construction of a new Duval County Criminal Courthouse. The mayor will present legislation to implement the move forward to the Jacksonville City Council in early January. The plan agreed upon by the mayor and the chief judge is based on the recommendations from the Mayor's Courthouse Advisory Committee, chaired by Jim Rinaman.

The plan proposes to fund the construction of a new criminal courthouse now, which will meet the short term needs of the judicial system. The plan establishes a spending target of \$250 million, with a commitment by Mayor Peyton to spend only the amount of money that the identified revenue streams will yield. Funding sources will be Better Jacksonville Plan revenues, existing trust fund balances and the \$15 traffic fine surcharge.

The budget is as follows;

- \$140.2 million for the new criminal courthouse building
- \$23.3 million to renovate the Old Federal Courthouse for the State Attorney and other offices
- \$8.6 million to renovate space in the Ed Ball Building (or another building) for the Public Defender
- \$4.1 million to make repairs to the existing Bay Street courthouse

The remaining funds cover expenses already incurred for land acquisition and other items, future contract administration costs, and for contingencies.

The legislation that will be introduced to City Council requests authorization sufficient to fund the design and construction of improvements to the Old Federal Courthouse, the design of space for the offices of the Public Defender, the master planning of the courthouse site and design for the criminal courthouse. The legislation also provides for the council to consider a request for funding of the criminal courthouse after reviewing the design and specifications.



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The courthouse legislation calls for the appointment of a seven-member Courthouse Architectural Review Committee to review and approve the criminal courthouse design. The members of this Review Committee are the Chief Judge, the Director of Public Works, the President of the Jacksonville City Council, the District Councilmember who represents the courthouse site, the chair of the Mayor's Courthouse Advisory Committee, the chair of the Better Jacksonville Plan Citizens' Oversight Committee and the Chair of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission.

"I am pleased to be moving forward on this important final piece of the Better Jacksonville Plan," said Mayor Peyton. "It is my commitment to design and build a criminal courthouse that will address the short term needs of the judicial system and be a building of which our community can be proud: a courthouse that will be constructed with the quality, durability and security standards outlined in Dan Wiley's report of last summer. I particularly wish to thank Chief Judge Donald Moran, Jim Rinaman and Council President Kevin Hyde for their efforts and their leadership on this crucial issue."

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