



TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF VIRGINIA
THE COURTHOUSE
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA 23901

Donald C. Blessing
Chief Judge

P.O. BOX 351
TELEPHONE 434-392-5171

February 3, 2025

Derek Stamey, County Administrator
Cumberland County
P.O. Box 110
Cumberland, Virginia 23040
dstamey@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov

Re: Courthouse Addition

Dear Derek,

Consideration of the courthouse addition has been ongoing for almost two years. The process has been deliberate, thoughtful, and considerate of the public, county officials, law enforcement, court officials, lawyers, litigants, and the judiciary.

The County's experts/consultants have determined the facilities to be inadequate and unsafe. The courthouse fails to meet the Virginia Court and Facilities Guidelines. New guidelines may be adopted this spring. ADA compliance must be addressed as well.

Case loads continue to increase. In the January Term, the Circuit Court (composed of Cumberland citizens) returned 112 sealed indictments (in addition to the regular ones).

The Board of Supervisors has discussed the need for an addition and all available options as reflected in minutes and recordings of work sessions and meetings.

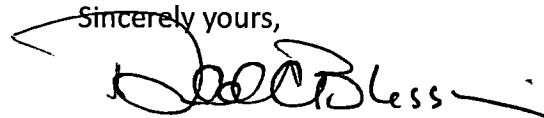
The Board should now act to authorize and implement the renovations needed (and the least expensive option preferred by the judges) to expand the facilities, modernize them, make use of the existing holding cells, and maintain the beauty and integrity of the present courthouse and grounds. Board action should include RFPs for bids for architectural and engineering plans.

Failure to act at the next Board meeting will be deemed a negative response. Judges Spencer and Dunkum, Chief Judges of the General District and J & DR Courts, join me in this view. We will pursue alternative means to achieve this goal if necessary.

We prefer a cooperative and collaborative effort. Our belief is that such a path will provide a less costly and much better project.

A response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald C. Blessing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donald C. Blessing, Chief Judge

c: Hon. Calvin S. Spencer, Jr., Chief Judge
Hon. Marvin H. Dunkum Jr., Chief Judge