



**FRANK WHITE, JR.**  
Jackson County Executive

April 11, 2023

Members of the Jackson County Legislature,

On May 16, 2022, the Jackson County Legislature selected the design build team of JE Dunn | Axiom Construction | DLR Group to lead construction efforts for a new Jackson County Detention Center. The Legislature's unanimous selection followed a nationwide selection process and that included significant input from the Circuit Court, Prosecuting Attorney, and our respective offices. In accordance with their contract, the design build team has completed its preconstruction phase and has provided the County with options for the new facility to achieve the project's vision – Justice with Dignity. Recently, the County Legislature was presented with nine options ranging in cost from approximately \$255 million to \$320 million and range in capacity from 488 beds to 1,256 beds.

On March 23, 2023, Ordinance 5727 was introduced at the request of the Administration. Ord. 5727 would allow the County to proceed with "Option #3" – construction of a 1,000-bed facility at a cost of \$301 million. Importantly, this design also provides the necessary programming and social services support for detainees which is paramount to reducing recidivism and providing Justice with Dignity.

While there are varying opinions throughout our community about the size of the new facility, we believe the size proposed by this option is both justified and meets our current needs. In addition, the proposed facility is designed for potential expansion should that be needed in the future. For more information about the County's capacity needs, please see the attached report prepared by our Owner's Representatives' JCDC, LLC.

While we share the concerns of many regarding the increasing cost of a new facility, we cannot allow the current realities of the financial and construction industries to overshadow our urgent need for a new detention facility. County staff and consultants have worked diligently to assess the proposed costs and have determined that the proposal is fair and will only increase should there be further delays. For more information about the financial resources currently available for this project, please see the attached memorandum from the County Administrator and Director of Finance and Purchasing.



Finally, it is important to remember that the prices quoted will only increase and additional delays will result in increased costs to Jackson County taxpayers. We urge you to pass Ord. 5727 as drafted as quickly as possible. We look forward to working with members of the County Legislature as we move forward on this essential civic project.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Jr.  
Jackson County Executive

Darryl Forté  
Jackson County Sheriff