

RESOLUTION NO.: 3447

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF REPURPOSING THE BAY COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE BUILDING AS A FEDERAL COURTHOUSE; SUPPORTS USING PANAMA CITY HALL AS A TEMPORARY JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITY; AND FURTHER SUPPORTS CONSTRUCTING A NEW BAY COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, federal law¹ provides that the federal court system in Florida shall be divided into 3 districts: Southern, Middle and Northern, and further provides that court for the Northern District be held in Gainesville, Marianna, Panama City, Pensacola, and Tallahassee; and

WHEREAS, the Panama City division represents just under 20 percent of the caseload; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's lease of the present federal courthouse in Panama City expires on December 31, 2018, and will not be renewed due to security and other alleged inadequacies of the present building; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is considering closing the Panama City division rather than pursuing the re-establishment of the Courthouse at a new location; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated by the Bay County Chamber of Commerce that there are 27 jobs that will be directly impacted by the closure of the Panama City division and over 100 jobs that will be indirectly impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Bay County Jail houses Federal inmates which is a major source of income for county government, estimated at the highest point to be over \$400,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, the current Panama City federal courthouse facility also houses the US Marshal, US Attorney and Public Defender, and a federal probation office and it is foreseeable that some of these and other federal agencies will move out of town rather than establish new offices outside the closed federal courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Panama City Federal Courthouse serves a six county region encompassing Bay, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson, Washington and Holmes Counties with a current regional population of 306,000 and an estimated ten year population growth of over 500,000 more than justifies the provision of a locally situated federal courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Bay County supports the concept of repurposing the current Bay County Juvenile Justice building for use by the Federal Courts as a Federal Courthouse; and supports using Panama City Hall as a temporary Juvenile Justice facility; and further supports constructing a new Bay County Juvenile Justice facility; and

¹ 28 U.S. Code § 89-Florida

WHEREAS, Bay County supports the efforts of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Federal Courthouse Task Force created to fight for the continued operation of the Panama City division and establishment of a new federal courthouse in Panama City.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the people of the Bay County, acting through their duly elected representatives, that the people of the Bay County oppose the dissolution of the Panama City division and supports the concept of repurposing the current Bay County Juvenile Justice building for use by the Federal Courts as a Federal Courthouse; and supports using Panama City Hall as a temporary Juvenile Justice facility; and further supports constructing a new Bay County Juvenile Justice facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager is directed to forward copies of this executed Resolution immediately to the Honorable Casey Rodgers, Chief Judge of the Northern District; the Honorable Ed Carnes, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit; the state and federal legislators who also represent the people of the Bay County, Florida; the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Federal Courthouse Task Force; and to all others whom he may determine appropriate.

THIS RESOLUTION shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY in regular session this 6th day of June, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**



By: William T. Dozier
William T. Dozier, Chairman

By: [Signature]
Philip "Griff" Griffiths, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Guy M. Tunnell, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Robert Carroll, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Tommy Hamm, Commissioner

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Bill Kinsaul, Clerk

