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ESCAMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
David Morgan, Sheriff

November 14, 2012

Larry Newsom, County Administrator (Acting)
221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Dear Mr. Newsom,

As you are well aware, our Central Booking and Detention (CBD) building, a part of the Escambia County Jail, recently experienced severe flooding as the result of a June 9, 2012 rain event and drainage system failures. The results of this flooding were severe and not limited to CBD, but extended also to the Main Jail, the Juvenile Justice Facility, and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. It is our understanding that the current plan is to repair the systems in the CBD basement and leave them in their current location. I am writing to express my strong objection to such a plan, because this solution leaves the Escambia County Sheriff's Office vulnerable to the same severe consequences that were suffered in this most recent flood. If the CBD basement is restored back to its original "pre-flood" condition, without any safeguards against flooding, the risk of a repeat of the consequences of the event of June 9, 2012 remains.

The following is a list of damages, possible damages, and collateral effects associated with the flooding of the CBD basement:

- The central feed for all power, both emergency generator and direct line, is located in the CBD basement. If this area floods there is no power at all to a facility that can hold up to 697 inmates at total capacity. During the June 9, 2012 flood, officers and inmates were suddenly left without any power. Power was restored incrementally in the following days. The loss of power to this facility has broad, negative consequences to the operation of criminal justice functions in Escambia County.
 - Potable water pressures drop, creating the loss of sewage capability.
 - The sewer macerator pump is disabled and sewage will eventually stop up.
 - ECSO warrants and booking, classification and release goes off line.
 - The elevators are disabled and rendered useless in a 5 story facility.



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- The chiller units, serving not only CBD, but also the Main Jail and the Juvenile Justice Facility, are disabled, causing humidity build-up and creating a wet and hazardous environment for inmates and staff.
- The basement houses the main boiler units for CBD (this was a total loss June 9, 2012).
- Inmate property and record storage for all of detention inmates is located in the basement of CBD (this was a total loss after the June 9, 2012 flood).
- The basement has a kitchen that supplies food services to CBD and is a back up to the Main Jail (this was a total loss June 9, 2012).
- The basement hosts a laundry that supplies laundry services to CBD and is a back up to the Main Jail (this was a total loss June 9, 2012).

The list is extensive, but not comprehensive, and if any of the above systems are not restored in a timely manner inmates may have to be evacuated at a cost of both money and human resources, possibly placing the public at risk if mass relocation is required.

During this year's flood, there were no escapes, and no serious injuries to either inmates or staff, nor was a mass evacuation required. One can attribute that success to an experienced well-trained staff and a little luck. However, Escambia County should not take that for granted. The ramifications of a future flood might be much more serious. The CBD and the services housed in the basement are more than just a housing unit for inmates. All functions of law enforcement in Escambia County center on the CBD's operation. All local law enforcement agencies book their arrestees through this facility. It is the hub between the Courts and law enforcement. It is not possible to justify again placing the infrastructure for the CBD's operation at risk because of flooding when the consequences of a flood are already known, and other options are now available to prevent this from recurring.

I strongly object to restoring the facilities in the CBD basement to their original location. Now is the time to relocate these critical functions to an above-ground site that will not be subject critical services to the risk of becoming disabled in the event of a future flood or rain event.

Sincerely,



David Morgan, Sheriff

Cc: Commissioner Wilson Robertson, District 1
 Commissioner Gene M. Valentino, District 2
 Commissioner Marie K. Young, District 3
 Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV, District 4
 Commissioner Kevin White, District 5