

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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May 14, 2007

Honorable Council Members
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Housing our City Government**

Our City government has wasted precious time and limited resources in an effort to vacate the existing municipal building and adjacent property. Many citizens have acknowledged their confidence and trust in their City government has been shaken by the actions, inactions and missed opportunities to accomplish this.

I appreciate the efforts and recommendations from the City Building Committee's Final Report dated December 11, 2006. City Council must evaluate their recommendations and any additional ideas which may transpire from our discussions to seek the best solution.

This subject became convoluted when our City government accepted the liability of the Marting Building for \$2 million on May 29, 2002 and again by the signing of the new agreement with the Marting's Foundation on May 24, 2005. The new agreement requires the City to spend the returned monies (approx. \$1.4 million) on the former Marting's property or a percentage on the former Adelpia property. Although on May 2, 2006, the public expressed their desires clearly by their approval of the citizen referendum which stopped any further renovations on the Marting's Building as a City government facility. I would be delighted if the Marting's Building could be utilized by a future commercial business in our downtown area but I am not encouraged by our actions to market this facility or the annex.

I believe the existing municipal building property has been unfairly exempted as a viable option because it has been stated the property is just too valuable for our City government and would be better suited as commercial property. I am recommending City Council obtain professional advice for proper decision making. I am suggesting City Council include the existing municipal building and adjacent property as a practical solution to housing our City government. The existing municipal property would not require the purchase of additional taxable property to house our City government.

Our goal, as City Council, must be to avoid further delays to provide a safe working environment for our employees and citizens conducting business within our City government. If you should have any comments or questions contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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cc: Jim Kalb, Mayor
Engineering Department
David Kuhn, Solicitor
Trent Williams, Auditor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)