



JAMES D. KALB
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662

February 22, 2008

Councilman Robert Mollette
1705 Franklin Avenue
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

RE: "Reported Existing Condition of Portsmouth Municipal Building"
(Mollette correspondence #08-002 dated February 6, 2008)

Dear Councilman Mollette,

Please be assured that I have not and will not "lose sight of providing a safe environment for the public doing and business and City employees working at our existing City building."

As evidenced in the "walk through" report (completed prior to your request), which I copied to you, we are monitoring and addressing the conditions and problems with the City building. Not only do we have to address daily the safety and health concerns of all workers in and visitors to the building, but we also must struggle with the "working conditions" for all those who must spend 8 hours a day here. Temperature is controlled by opening and closing windows in the winter; electrical equipment is used by first shutting down other equipment to prevent overloading circuits; hallways and offices are swept almost continuously to clear areas of chipping paint and plaster; water is used hoping that pipes don't burst when being turned on and off; lighting is less than adequate; all offices are in need of cosmetic improvements; some doors are chained at night because of non-functioning locks; computers and communication wiring is strung everywhere because of the near impossible task of drilling through the thick concrete walls; utility bills are excessive because of the inefficient design and components of the structure, *et cetera*.

No matter what the final decision is for our City offices, the cost for remodeling or new construction has more than doubled since City Council took the initial step for new offices about 6 years ago. The delays, indecision and constant debating have increased the cost to taxpayers between 4 to 8 million dollars, depending on Council's final choice for offices. Not only has the delay cost the taxpayers financially, but most of them have lost faith in their elected officials to make a responsible decision and move forward.

For all the reasons listed herein, and many others which are not, I feel it would behoove you and City Council to make a decision for new City office space and more move expediently toward that resolve.



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Once again, Please understand and remember that we are and we will continue to be struggling to provide a safe environment, and continue working with less-than-adequate conditions at the Municipal Building, until City Council authorizes new facilities for their dedicated (and frustrated) employees.

Thank you for your concern.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Kalb". The signature is stylized and written over a large, faint circular mark.

James D. Kalb, Mayor
City of Portsmouth

cc: Honorable Council Members
Trent Williams, Auditor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk
Michael Jones, Solicitor
The Honorable Judge Schissler
The Honorable Judge Kegley
Probation Department
Engineering Department
Police Department
Leroy Kegley, Clerk of Court

JDK/wjj