

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099
email: mollette@mollette.info
website: www.mollette.info

Correspondence#: 08-002

February 6, 2008

Jim Kalb, Mayor
Michael Jones, Solicitor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Reported Existing Condition of the Portsmouth Municipal Building

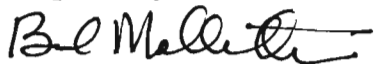
This letter is a reminder not to lose sight of providing a safe environment for the public doing business and City employees working at our existing City Building. Similar to my October 18, 2005 correspondence (#05-004) I am requesting you to take action and seek guidance from appropriate departments to perform a thorough inspection. This includes documentation of findings and corrective actions required to keep our public employees and citizens' safe while on City premises. Personal injury to workers or citizens as a result of negligence on the part of the City must be avoided.

For many years citizens and City employees have expressed disgust over the deplorable conditions at the Portsmouth Municipal Building. Just recently the Portsmouth Daily Times (PDT) published a news article January 29, 2008 which referenced a dilapidated municipal building deteriorating day by day with a small chunk of ceiling falling to the floor. An editorial/opinion article published February 2, 2008 in the PDT suggested someone is going to get seriously injured or killed some day from falling debris. The City Clerk was quoted "I told them to just put an umbrella over where I work, and I'll just keep working." The City Council President was quoted "you should look over in the restroom where we have garbage cans right now catching the water coming through the ceiling." These statements should be a wakeup call to evaluate the existing conditions at our City Building and take corrective actions as needed.

Again, I am requesting a thorough inspection of the existing conditions at our City Building. Also, again I am requesting documentation of any findings and corrective actions required to keep our public employees and citizens' safe while on City premises. The excuse of not taking corrective actions based on the unknown future of the existing City Building is not defensible when safety is in question and when the degraded conditions of our City Building are due to ongoing neglect.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me.

Respectfully,



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

rwm

cc: Honorable Council Members (5)
Engineering Department
Health Department
Trent Williams, Auditor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)