



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOHN K. BRAMLETT, JR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

RANKIN, MADISON COUNTIES

September 16, 2022

Mr. Greg Higginbotham,
Madison County Administrator
125 West North Street
Post Office Box 608
Canton, MS 39046

Re: Proposed Lease of Office Building

Dear Greg:

Thank you for your help while my Madison County Office has been displaced from its temporary location on North Liberty Street in Canton since the August 2nd flood. Honestly, the Board has caught me off guard at the speed with which they want me to decide to agree to relocate my "temporary" office for a decade. This Monday, September 12, 2022, the date of your call requesting a decision by Monday, September 19, marked the start of a two-week trial term in both Rankin and Madison Counties. As you can imagine, trial terms are quite demanding on my time as the District Attorney for one of the largest and busiest districts in our state. The magnitude of such a far-reaching decision merits much more time, research, and counsel on my end.

While I sincerely appreciate the effort and energy you have expended finding another office, those that know me know that I do not rush into things quickly. I am committed to serving the people of Madison County, as well as the entirety of my staff, many of whom are also Madison County residents. Consequently, it will take me some time to thoughtfully consider this matter and alleviate several concerns that I have. For instance, the county is purportedly willing to commit to a large expenditure for a lease of an office building that is over two miles from the courthouse all the while remaining steadfast not to provide office space within the very courthouse wherein we conduct all of our trials. I am tremendously concerned about the ramifications of such a large expenditure for a portion of that building with a commitment of ten years. I am not certain that I even have the authority to make such a commitment, unless

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expressly authorized by law. I also will need my attorneys to review the lease which I have yet to see myself.

I have no doubt when you report back to the Board they will understand why I do not want to act rashly, and that we share the joint mission to serve the people of Madison County and to be good stewards of their money and resources. To be clear, I cannot commit at this time to be a lessee or occupant of any lease currently proposed, and specifically request a copy of the same for review by myself and my attorneys.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bubba", written over the typed name.

John K. "Bubba" Bramlett, Jr.
District Attorney