August 21, 2009

Members of the Fort Wayne Common Council
c/o Molly McCray, Legislative Affairs Administrator
1 E. Main St.
Room 290
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Dear Council Members:

On August 19, our office received an email originating from Councilman Tim Pape seeking information on matters surrounding Mayor Henry’s proposal to purchase the Renaissance Square building and asking to have that information provided to Council before its public hearing on August 25. The answers and supporting documentation included with this letter are the County’s best responses in the short time frame provided.

Since June 23, when Mayor Henry publically announced his plans, the County Commissioners have had extensive information exchanges with the Mayor regarding potential space utilization at Renaissance Square and the City-County Building in the event the City decides to go through with the purchase. Though the Mayor has not responded to our request for a face-to-face meeting, we remain optimistic that we can reach agreement on a plan that will serve the best interests of all the taxpayers of Allen County. However, we still need to know if the City agrees with the major tenets of our proposal dealing with co-ownership of both Renaissance Square and the City-County Building and the location of police and administrative functions with respect to those buildings.

In conclusion, Councilman Pape wrote in his email, “If the County wants us to really weigh their financial considerations in deciding this for the City then I would have thought they’d have got us this information already.” Throughout this process, we have been as open as possible with the City Administration regarding our concerns. The Commissioners’ “financial considerations” have involved potential space utilization and its attendant costs. We have taken no position on the potential purchase of the Renaissance Square property, the allocation of City funds to that project or its purported benefits or cost assumptions and nothing in our proposal has delayed the City from making a decision on whether to buy the building.

Sincerely,

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen, Indiana

Bill Brown
President

Nelson Peters
Vice President

Linda K. Bloom
Secretary