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Orangeburg

SOUTH CAROLINA
May 23, 2023

SIDNEY J. EVERING, II
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

JOHN D. SINGH
ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Gilda Cobb-Hunter
South Carolina House of Representatives
309C Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Rep. Cobb-Hunter:

Orangeburg City Hall has been located at 979 Middleton Street since 1927, and shares building space with the historic Stevenson Auditorium. Unfortunately, after now having been at this location for almost 100 years, city operations have severely outgrown the space. Moreover, the current facility has been plagued by a number of maintenance and infrastructure issues in recent years, including **leaking roofs and pipes; sewer line overflows; mold; failing HVAC units; and water intrusion through exterior walls**. Despite the “band-aid” approach previously taken to address these issues, it has become very apparent a new City Hall facility is desperately needed.

A former bank building in downtown Orangeburg has been identified as the best place to renovate and relocate City Hall. The building will serve as the ideal location for several reasons. First, it will provide much-needed additional space – approximately *17,000 square feet*, compared to *6,000 square feet* for the current City Hall. In addition to meeting our current and future growth needs, the larger space will allow us to have the majority of city operations housed at one central location. This will provide for more efficient and convenient service to the public, as well as reduce the cost and maintenance associated with operating ancillary facilities.

Next, constructing a new City Hall will serve as an anchor for our downtown. The City is earnestly working to revitalize its downtown and the new facility will provide a catalyst for investment and transformation of the City’s downtown district. As you know, in 2021 the County completed construction of a new library and conference center in downtown Orangeburg. Furthermore, there are plans to construct a new county courthouse downtown. These projects, along with others, will go a long way in spurring the revitalization we are pursuing.

Finally, relocating our existing City Hall will allow us to eventually renovate the current building shared with Stevenson Auditorium. The 600-seat Stevenson Auditorium is a historic and unique building that is not meeting its full potential. Once City Hall is relocated, there are plans to renovate the remaining space and auditorium so it can be better utilized as a cultural destination and event space, as well as serve as an economic driver – much like the Newberry Opera House.

Thank you for your consideration - any funding assistance for the construction of our new City Hall will be very much appreciated and very much needed.

Sincerely,


Sidney Evering, II
Orangeburg City Administrator

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