

A RESOLUTION OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY LOCATING
COURTS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND COUNTY
OFFICIALS FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County has attempted to determine the best location(s) to provide future government services to the citizens of St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, for a period in excess of six (6) years, arguments supporting both the downtown and the Lewis Speedway sites, and other available sites, have not resolved the issue to the satisfaction of the citizens of St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis Speedway property, as a single site for all County government functions, is not guaranteed to provide the citizens, and will not resolve traffic problems without the construction of an overpass; and

WHEREAS, the downtown facility, as a single site, may not provide future cost savings because of the expansion restraints and traffic problems; and

WHEREAS, the most economical and sensible plan for meeting the needs of County government and the Courts is to establish a new judicial center at Lewis Speedway, retain the existing County Administration Building as a one-stop County permitting facility, and to renovate the downtown Courthouse to house the Board of County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and other County administrative offices.

WHEREAS, a voter referendum to approve any location cannot be held until the 1992 election, and a delay of two (2) years or more will cost the taxpayers substantially more money (through higher construction costs, inflation, rent, etc.);

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. The St. Johns County Administrator is directed to stop all planning, engineering, architectural design, or other work for a single government center to be constructed at Lewis Speedway or any other site.
2. The St. Johns County Administrator, utilizing staff and the project architects, are directed to develop and submit to the Board for its review and approval, a master plan and budget within the following guidelines:

- (a) Permitting and Related Offices. The existing St. Johns County Administration Building shall be utilized to provide a one-stop County permitting service, housing the Planning and Zoning, Building and Engineering Departments, and other related County administrative departments as the Board may designate as necessary to fully utilize the building. The building shall not be renovated or refurbished except to the minimum extent necessary to convert it to a permitting center.
 - (b) Courts and Related Offices. A new justice center shall be established at Lewis Speedway to meet the anticipated needs of the Courts, the judicial support functions of the Clerk of the Court, Official Court Reporter and bailiffs through the year 2005. In developing the master plan, the Administrator shall consult with the State Attorney, Public Defender and Director of Probation and Parole; and report to the Board their recommendations as to whether their offices should be located in the new justice center or in the existing downtown Courthouse. The Board shall make the final decision as to their location.
 - (c) Constitutional Officers and County Administration. The Courthouse located in downtown St. Augustine shall be renovated, refurbished, and expanded as necessary to meet the anticipated year 2005 needs of (i) the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrative offices other than the permitting and related offices which will remain in the County Administration Building; (ii) the non-judicial functions of the Clerk of the Court; and (iii) the constitutional officers other than those the Board determines are to be located in the new judicial facility pursuant to subsection (b). The master plan and budget shall include a downtown parking facility to be jointly developed with the City in accordance with paragraph 8 below.
3. In no event will the total cost of the above-mentioned project exceed the funds available to the County under its \$21,095,000 Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 1989. The County Administrator, utilizing staff and the project architects, will study and recommend possible cost-saving measures, including revision of the space program. Any portion of the bond proceeds not needed for the project will be used to pay or redeem the bonds.

4. The St. Johns County Administrator, utilizing staff, shall study the need and feasibility of the future development of minimum service administrative annexes to serve the Hastings, and Southeastern areas of St. Johns County.
5. The St. Johns County Administrator, utilizing staff and the project architects, shall develop a timetable for the projects and the movement of departments into the facilities provided for them.
6. The St. Johns County Administrator shall report on these projects to the Board of County Commissioners at each Board meeting until the projects are completed, or as the Board otherwise directs.
7. The St. Johns County Administrator, staff and the project architects will make every effort to effectuate the spirit and the letter of this Resolution.
8. Any planning and design work on the downtown parking facility beyond the development of the master plan and budget shall be contingent upon the City of St. Augustine agreeing to jointly develop with the County, a downtown parking facility to serve the downtown County offices on mutually acceptable terms. The County administration, staff and the project architect shall consult and coordinate with the City Manager and staff in planning the parking facility.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING THIS 26 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1991.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: 

Its Chairman

ATTEST: Carl "Bud" Markel, Clerk

By 

Deputy Clerk