



May 29, 2014

Mr. Bryan Gruesbeck
Town of Pittsboro
PO Box 759
Pittsboro, NC 27312-0759

Dear Mr. Gruesbeck,

As you may know, the TJCOG Emergency Response and Security Planning Committee (ERSPC) has initiated a study to examine the feasibility of a more regional approach to public safety training that would combine the resources of many local jurisdictions and potentially lead to a joint regional public safety training facility. A shared regional complex will not and cannot address all training needs for every agency and there will still be a need for routine local training facilities, however, this project would provide the advanced and specialized training site no local jurisdiction could afford on their own. This approach has the potential to greatly reduce the cost burden for any single organization to fund all of its own training and training facility needs. It creates a cost sharing model that can potentially provide world class facilities at a lower cost, and a training model that can deliver state of the art public safety training in a very cost effective manner. Our hope and objective is that a facility of this type, located centrally in the region or placed strategically at several sites across the region, would help all our public safety organizations raise the sophistication and quality of services to the world class level our region represents to the nation. The ultimate goal is better training at a lower cost and enhanced regional cooperation among public safety organizations because no single jurisdiction can have enough resources to deal with disasters or major emergencies.

Initial funds to perform a needs assessment for the region were generously provided by the City of Raleigh, Wake County, Town of Cary, Durham County, City of Durham, Orange County and Town of Chapel Hill. These funds were used to contract with Dewberry, Little and Tactical Design to perform the regional needs assessment (phase I). A training and facility needs assessment workshop was conducted over a two day period with the participation of many public safety service providers and organizations of every discipline (law-enforcement, fire-rescue, EMS, 911 and emergency management) within the TJCOG region. The conclusions of the workshop were as follows:

- Basic training facilities are required
- Advanced facilities are needed
- Most organizations have the same facility deficiencies
- Most organizations cannot afford the facilities required or desired
- Without regional cooperation, advanced levels of public safety training will be nearly impossible to achieve
- Specific priority needs of most agencies were identified

- All organizations have significant budget challenges to address training and facility needs
- A joint regional facility was extremely agreeable to help share costs
- A Joint regional facility was seen as essential for joint cooperation and facilitating operations

As a result of this cooperative effort, the ERSPC has concluded that a more detailed strategic planning process (phase II) be conducted for the region. This process has been endorsed by the TJCOG regional managers group. This next phase would produce quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate the project's program curriculum and design, operations analysis and modeling, concept cost construction estimates, financial assessment, external revenue strategy, facility conceptual design, sustainability planning and site selection criteria. Dewberry, Little and Tactical Design would conduct the phase II strategic plan. Once initiated the process is estimated to take at least seven months and is designed to include input from public safety agencies and other interested organizations in the TJCOG region through surveys, meetings, organizational interviews, and focus group meetings. It's estimated that the cost of all phase II activities will be \$135,000 with findings and recommendations complete sometime during spring of 2015.

To move forward with phase II, it is necessary that adequate funds be raised to support this joint regional endeavor. The ERSPC is asking jurisdictions in the TJCOG region for support and approved a tiered approach to jurisdiction contribution amounts based upon population. Your contribution would be in "good faith" and signal your jurisdiction's desire to join with others to help support and participate in this very important phase of the process. It should be made clear that participating in the next phase of study and planning does not "lock" a jurisdiction into a continuing effort if you decide that the project is not beneficial to your public safety mission.

We ask that you contact Kirby Bowers, Executive Director of TJCOG at kbowers@tjco.org or 919-558-9395 with your jurisdiction's intent to contribute by **July 31, 2014**. You will subsequently receive an invoice from TJCOG for the contribution amount. The requested contribution amounts can be found on the enclosed table. If you have any questions please feel free contact us. We encourage your participation and contribution and thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Lee Worsley
Deputy County Manager, Durham County
Chairman, ERSP Committee



Dan Jones
Fire Chief, Chapel Hill
Chairman, Public Safety Training Center
Steering Committee

cc: Fire Chief, Police Chief, Sheriff, Emergency Management Coordinator

Regional Public Safety Training Center

Contribution Table (Phase II)

Jurisdictions 100K and over: \$9,000

City of Durham
 Durham County
 Johnston County
 Orange County

Wake County
 Town of Cary
 City of Raleigh

Jurisdictions 50-100K: \$6,000

Chatham County
 Moore County

Town of Chapel Hill
 Lee County

Jurisdictions 10-50K: \$4,000

Town of Clayton
 Town of Smithfield
 City of Sanford
 Town of Carrboro
 Town of Apex
 Town of Fuquay-Varina
 Town of Garner

Town of Holly Springs
 Town of Knightdale
 Town of Morrisville
 Town of Wake Forest
 Village of Pinehurst
 Town of Southern Pines

Jurisdictions 10K or less: \$1,500

Town of Pittsboro
 Town of Archer Lodge
 Town of Benson
 Town of Kenly
 Town of Princeton
 Town of Selma
 Town of Broadway
 Village of Foxfire
 Town of Pine Level
 Town of Pine Bluff
 Village of Whispering Pines

Town of Hillsborough
 Town of Rolesville
 Town of Wendell
 Town of Zebulon
 Town of Carthage
 Town of Aberdeen
 Town of Siler City
 Town of Four Oaks
 Town of Wilson's Mills
 Town of Robbins