



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice

CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
15B DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT
ORANGE AND CHATHAM COUNTIES

MAR 16 2005

Jr
AGENDA #4a

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JOSEPH MOODY BUCKNER
P. O. Box 1088
HILLSBOROUGH, N. C. 27278

March 11, 2005

Mr. Cal Horton
Town Manager of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Cal:

Pursuant to our earlier discussions regarding the Chapel Hill Courtroom and after reading some comments in the News and Observer, please forward to the Mayor, Council and any other interested parties the following information.

- 1) The town is under no obligation to provide any court space to the courts.
- 2) We use this space every Tuesday for traffic and alcohol violations issued by the Chapel Hill Police Department, the Carrboro Police Department, UNC Police, ALE and members of the North Carolina Highway Patrol. If court is eliminated in Chapel Hill all officers involved in those cases will be under subpoena in Hillsborough for the entire court day their cases are set. We currently work with the departments to have "call in" subpoenas since the officer is generally on duty and can be there in court in a matter of a few minutes. Given the volume of cases we must process, this will not be possible if those cases are in Hillsborough. The officers shall be required to be physically present in Hillsborough until all of the officers' cases are disposed.
- 3) We use the Chapel Hill Courtroom for abuse, neglect and dependency from the Department of Social Services twice a month.
- 4) We use the Chapel Hill Courtroom twice a month for Family Treatment Court.
- 5) We use the Chapel Hill Courtroom twice a month for Drug Treatment Court.
- 6) We use the Chapel Hill Courtroom once a month for Community Resource Court (mental health court) for residents who live on the south end of the county.

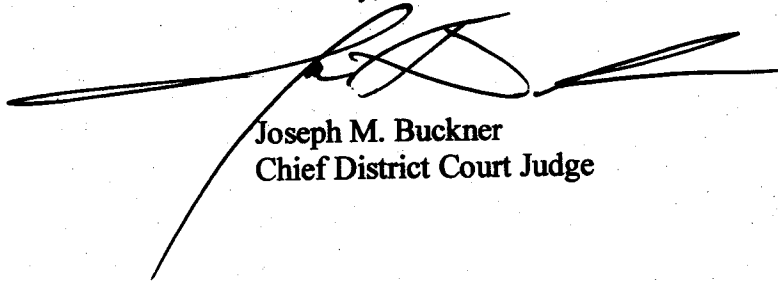
7) Potentially every day now and in fact every day beginning in September 2005 for 18 to 24 months during construction at the court campus in Hillsborough (when the Chapel Hill Courtroom is not under one of the above uses) we will have general civil court (civil non domestic and domestic cases involving divorce, custody, visitation, support and property division).

8) Everyone charged with a speeding violation or other offense and everyone involved, litigants, witnesses, court personnel will drive to Hillsborough to address their business with the court.

9) Beginning in April, 2005 we had planned to use the facility for Child Planning Conferences at the rate of two times per month.

If I can provide any other information regarding the use of this facility, please call on me.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Buckner
Chief District Court Judge

JMB/mgh

cc: Mayor Foy and Chapel Hill Council
Chief Gregg Jarvies, Chapel Hill PD
Chief Carolyn Hutchinson, Carrboro PD
Chief Derek Poarch, UNC PD
1st Sgt. Rodney Cates, NC Highway Patrol
The Honorable Carl Fox, District Attorney
Beverly Scarlett, Senior Assistant DA for District Court
Nancy Coston, Director Orange County DSS
Steve Stewart, Town Manager of Carrboro
Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Carolyn Efland, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Campus Services
Judy Truitt, Director, OPC Mental Health
Carol Holcomb, Attorney for DSS
Lunsford Long, Judicial District Bar Councilor
John Link, Orange County Manager
Pam Jones, Orange County Liaison for Court Activities
Orange County Commissioners
Senior Members of the Bar