

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

EX 1 ✓

June 3, 2019

Date

Request from Council Member Connie Boesen to discuss sending a letter to the General Services Administration regarding the Federal Courthouse.

Moved by _____ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

Ex 1

May 29, 2019

Commissioner Dan Matthews
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Commissioner Matthews,

Before the GSA purchased the former YMCA site, they promised us a courthouse design that would integrate commercial uses and activate the Principal Riverwalk, one of the premier recreational attractions in Des Moines. Unfortunately, despite tireless efforts of the City and requests by the Iowa Congressional Delegation over the past six months, the GSA approved a design that will not benefit the people of Des Moines.

The proposed courthouse location is roundly opposed by the constituents of Des Moines, including the City Council, Polk County Board of Supervisors, State Auditor, Downtown Neighborhood Association, East Village Neighborhood Association, and many of our most prominent employers including Principal Financial, Meredith, EMC, The Lauridsen Group and others.

As City representatives, we object to this project because it will inflict long-term social and economic harm on our City by impairing the Riverwalk, a centerpiece of our long-term plan to attract talent, tourism and investment to Des Moines, and by removing the most prime development site from the property tax rolls. Further, we feel this is a careless use of taxpayer dollars as the proposed Federal Courthouse will house 36 fewer employees than the existing facilities and does not account for the future growth of the Courts.

The planned courthouse is simply unacceptable to the City of Des Moines. We therefore ask that you terminate the GSA's relocation plans to the former YMCA site.

Should the GSA continue to pursue the plans announced on May 23, please know that the City of Des Moines will oppose these efforts. We have an obligation to advocate on behalf of our constituents and they continue to speak loudly in opposition.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to a swift resolution to this issue and to working together in the future.

Sincerely,

[Mayor and City Council Members]

Ex 1

CC: Douglas L. Hoelscher
Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cynthia Axne
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515