Attachment J

HELLMUTH, OBATA + KASSABAUM, INC.

ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, PLANNING,
INTERIORS, GRAPHICS, CONSULTING

July 17, 2006

Mr. Humberto Contreras
GSA
111 N.W. 1st Street
Suite 2420
Miami, FL 33128

RE: Response to Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Comments

Dear Humberto,

We would like to take this opportunity to address some of the comments made at the presentation on July 6th. Firstly, we are very appreciative of the enthusiasm for the design as we presented and excited about "adding" people to the building.

The building is using escalators to help move the public from the entry level to the second and third floors; they do however incorporate open public stairs between them to allow foot traffic. There are public fire stairs that connect the public galleries, but it is unlikely that the security operations of the building will allow use of these except in emergency exit conditions. The staff however will be able to use the dedicated staff stairs which only connect the "private" areas of the building. In addition to this there is an open stair that connects the two top floors which house the Judges, Court Administration and Case Managers.

A child care area is included in the building for visitors (not staff). It is currently located on the fourth floor. It is currently anticipated that day care for staff is provided in facilities adjacent to the new Children's Courthouse.

The number of courtrooms is based on the Program prepared by Carter Goble Lee and reconfirmed by the Courts. Eighteen courtrooms are planned-detailed layouts will be developed in the next phase. The plans show two different sizes of courtroom to allow flexibility in use-when the courts move in and well into the future. It should be noted that the structure and cores of the building are designed so that any of the "agency" floors could be retrofitted into courtrooms in the future. As this is not anticipated to happen before 2020 we will not make any other provisions in the construction for the future renovation.

We did not discuss the details of the plaza at the presentation, but it has always been our intent to design an active public space that is accessible and safe. We will show more details at our next presentation.

The openness that we strive for in the public areas is tempered with the need for safety and security of all the occupants. As the design develops, we will work with all parties to make these spaces efficient and safe.

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There is a Law Enforcement officer waiting room located in the building at the ground floor adjacent to the public lobby.

Our scope of work and efforts of the next few months will be to incorporate the State Attorney, Public Defender and Guardian Ad Litem into the project. We look forward to working closely with these groups as well as continued efforts with The Courts.

We assume also that all the components of the building as designed to date and submitted as the Phase 1B-Schematic Design deliverable are accepted and approved; 18 Courtrooms, 18 Judges chambers and space for the Administrative Office of the Courts; Space for the Clerk of Courts, Department of Juvenile Justice, other support agencies and the building support spaces that are shown.

The County staff is addressing the type of parking that is provided on this site as well as parking on adjacent properties. At this time the design team will continue with the design as submitted (approx. 75 secure spaces, and 30 other spaces under the Metro Rail).

I hope this addresses the design issues raised at the Commission meeting. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan C. S. Broyd, RIBA
Managing Principal

Attachment: Minutes to Commission Meeting – July 7, 2006

cc: Jose Perez (GSA)
Rick Martinez (AOC)
HOK Team + Consultants