



JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035

Suite 530
12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKWAY
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

TELEPHONE 703- 324-2321
FAX 703- 324-3955

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Board Matter

Support of Springfield Site for FBI Headquarters Relocation

February 7, 2023

On April 28, 2022, the Board of Supervisors sent a letter expressing our unanimous support for the FBI headquarters relocation to the site of a federally owned warehouse in Springfield. The letter listed the myriad advantages this site has over the competition. As the site selection process has entered into a new phase, it is appropriate to once again state our support.

As this Board well knows, the Springfield site has many advantages over the other sites, both of which are in Maryland, that are formally in competition. The Springfield site provides unparalleled access to other federal sites including the FBI National Academy and the FBI Laboratory at Marine Corps Base Quantico. Greater Springfield is a majority-minority community, which supports the federal government's renewed emphasis on equity. Virginia also has sustainability advantages, such as having a top 10 ranking by the U.S. Green Building Council for our high concentration of sustainable buildings and livable communities. Finally, the transportation advantages of the Springfield site include access to Metro and VRE, numerous bus lines, and easy access to Interstate 95.

Therefore, madam Chairman, I move the Board send the attached letter to Robin Carnahan, Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration, and Christopher Wray, FBI Director, expressing our continued support for the Springfield site.



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The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Administrator Carnahan, Director Wray:

I write to you today on behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to restate our unequivocal support of relocating the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to Springfield, Virginia.

The site, which currently houses a General Services Administration (GSA) warehouse, was selected by and has the full support of Virginia's representatives in Congress, in the Virginia General Assembly, and of local leaders. This universal backing stems from a number of factors, all of which lead us to definitively state that the Springfield site is head and shoulders above the competition and makes the most sense for residents and taxpayers alike.

In addition to the previously stated advantages of the site included in my letter to Administrator Carnahan in April 2022 (ownership by the federal government, transportation options, Fairfax County's experience with corporate headquarters and federal agencies), I would like to enumerate several advantages for your consideration.

First, the Springfield site provides unparalleled access to other federal sites including the FBI National Academy and the FBI Laboratory at Marine Corps Base Quantico, FBI Northern Virginia Resident Agency in Prince William County and the recently completed FBI Central Records Complex in Winchester. This proximity allows for great synergies to support the FBI's mission as well as to forge deeper partnerships with academia and the private sector in Northern Virginia.

Second, with its emphasis on advancing greater equity and diversity, the federal government would find great advantages to locating the FBI headquarters in Springfield and in Fairfax County where more than 182 different languages are spoken at home. The Greater Springfield area is a majority-minority community, and the new FBI headquarters would provide an economic boost to this underserved community. On sustainability, Virginia is ranked in the top 10 by the U.S. Green Building Coalition for our high concentration of sustainable buildings and livable communities. Furthermore, Dominion Energy has invested billions in cleaner and renewable energy and now 9% of Virginia's energy is powered by renewable sources, more than double of Maryland's 4%.

Finally, the transportation advantages of the Springfield site are worth repeating. The existing GSA warehouse site neighbors the Joe Alexander Transportation Center, which is home to numerous bus and rail lines. The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) runs directly from Springfield to Quantico which would connect your employees on two of the agency's largest installations. Fairfax County has long promoted transit for our residents and regional partners, and we know this site and the various transit options provided to it would

reduce the commute times for much of the FBI's workforce. The County and Commonwealth are fully committed to the extension of Frontier Drive, connecting the Franconia/Springfield Metro Station with an even-more direct path to Interstate 95.

Again, the Commonwealth stands unified behind the Springfield GSA warehouse site. We look forward to working with you to maximize the site's potential and expand our longstanding partnership.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay

cc: Aaron Hassinger, Project Executive U.S. General Services Administration
Members, Virginia General Assembly Delegation
Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Jason El Koubi, President and CEO, Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Victor Hoskins, President and CEO, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority