

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY TO  
REPLACE THE RODERICK L. IRELAND COURTHOUSE**

(Sponsored by City Councilor Cecilia P. Calabrese)

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- WHEREAS,** the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts consists of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Appeals Court, the Executive Office of the Trial Court, the seven Trial Court Departments, the Massachusetts Probation Service, and the Office of the Jury Commissioner; and
- WHEREAS,** the Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse (hereinafter the “Courthouse”) in Springfield is the main courthouse for Hampden County and contains the Superior Court, the District Court, the Probate and Family Court, the Office of the Hampden County District Attorney, the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, among other offices doing business on behalf of the people of Hampden County; and
- WHEREAS,** the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (hereinafter “DCAMM”) is responsible for capital planning, public building construction, facilities management, and real estate services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and DCAMM has as its stated purpose to “work with state agencies to create and manage forward-thinking sustainable buildings to meet the needs of the citizens they serve”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a state agency that serves the citizens of Massachusetts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Courthouse has a long history of mold, air quality problems and dust accumulation which recently led to the closing of the Courthouse for remediation in 2021; and
- WHEREAS,** a report released March 7, 2022 revealed that are several species of toxic mold infesting the interior of the Courthouse which are linked to cancer and other serious diseases; and
- WHEREAS,** the Trial Court has determined the building would remain open to the public notwithstanding the presence of toxic, cancer-causing mold inside the Courthouse; and
- WHEREAS,** the Trial Court stated that the anticipated cost to renovate the Courthouse is approximately \$91 million dollars, not including the cost to re-house existing offices and personnel during the proposed renovation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Trial Court anticipates that renovation of the existing Courthouse would take at least two years to complete; and
- WHEREAS,** the anticipated cost to replace the Courthouse would be approximately \$200 million dollars according the Trial Court; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Hampden County have a reasonable expectation of safety when interfacing with the state legal system and conducting other business within the Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS,** the Trial Court and DCAMM are now on notice that they likely cannot provide a toxic-free, forward-thinking, sustainable environment within the Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse for the citizens they serve.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the Agawam City Council hereby urges DCAMM and the Trial Court to work together to immediately make the Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse safe for the general public and employees and staff who work in the facility;
2. That the Agawam City Council hereby urges DCAMM and the Trial Court to identify suitable temporary facilities within which the public can interface with the legal system and conduct business with other entities currently in the Courthouse until it can be made safe; and
3. That the Agawam City Council hereby urges DCAMM and the Trial Court to obtain a comprehensive feasibility study to include remediation and renovation of the existing Courthouse versus construction of a new courthouse that is forward-thinking and sustainable to meet the needs of the people of Hampden County.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:**

That suitably attested digital copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance; and all State Senators and State Representatives who represent communities located in Hampden County.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

**PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL.**

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Christopher C. Johnson, President

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY.**



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Stephen J. Buoniconti, City Solicitor