

Carpenter, Katherine

From: Shpresa Idrizi <shpresa@idrizilaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Burton, Barry
Subject: Renaming the Criminal Justice Center

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Dear Commissioners,

I worked at the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) from 2005-2008 and am familiar with both the public defender's office and the state's attorney office. After graduating from law school and entering the legal profession, I took an oath to support both the constitutions of the United States and of the State of Florida which maintain that all persons are equal before the law, and I take great personal pride in "believing" that our judicial system is fair, impartial and equitable to all. This in fact was the allure that led me to practice in the criminal field. I tried 65 jury trials cases before I retired from my position as a public servant and entered the private sector.

Now, as I enter CJC as a private attorney with my clients, we enter a neutral building where both the public defender and state attorney offices reside. During court proceedings, a representative from each side takes their respective place at the tables provided in each court room. Each side is represented equally in each case and their fight for justice is unequivocal. The building currently has a neutral name and is not named after a previous residing state attorney nor public defender. In fact, it is my understanding that there is no courthouse in the United States, either federal or state, that solely bears the name of either a prosecutor, public defender, or private defense attorney. To name it exclusively after any such person, would present the appearance of an unfair, partial and inequitable justice system. Naming our criminal justice building after a prosecutor, can give the appearance of a one sided system to each individual that walks through those doors who are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a jury of their peers. It is one of our country's foundational tenets that make it so great. The appearance and adherence to a fair and equitable judicial system is paramount to the legal profession, our system of justice, our country, and its people.

There are many variations in the way Themis is depicted, but most often she is portrayed as carrying the scales of justice in one hand and a sword in the other with her eyes blindfolded which symbolizes the fair and equal administration of the law without corruption, avarice, prejudice, or favor in the legal systems throughout the western world.

I implore you to keep the building name neutral in honor of the lady scale of justice, of what our forefathers intended when they wrote the constitution, and of the United States of America and its system of justice.

Thank you each for your public service and taking our points of view into consideration.



Sincerely,
Shpresa Idrizi

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Carpenter, Katherine

From: Haydee Oropesa <oropesadefense@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Gerard, Pat; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie
Cc: Burton, Barry; Bartlett, Bruce
Subject: 3/ 4/ 21 Workshop on Re-Naming Courthouse after McCabe & Re-quest to consider Robert Jagger

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Good Morning Pinellas Commissioners,

Workshop scheduled for 3/4/21 and Public Discussion at the workshop:

I watched this morning's commission mtg, item 15. I am requesting that if Mr. Bruce Bartlett is allowed to speak at your workshop scheduled for 3/4/21, that public members seeking to also provide comment be allowed. I am also requesting to be able to speak at the workshop scheduled for March 4, 2021. I am the president of an HOA in Pinellas County and have been so for the past 10 years and I am not aware of workshops being open for comment by members/public but only at a publicly held meeting where a vote will be taken. If the Pinellas County Commission is making an exception to public comments at Commission workshops, then I believe it would be necessary to, in fairness, notice the public at large, so the public can also speak if they wish and not just one side of the discussion, i.e. Bruce Bartlett.

Citizen request in re-naming the Pinellas Courthouse:

I am making this my official request, per your A.D. 9-5, to the Pinellas County Commission that Robert Jagger, the first Public Defender in the country, be considered by this Commission to also be considered for having the Pinellas Justice Complex named after him. I am submitting this request for consideration to be considered as a dual name consideration along with the late Bernie McCabe. Robert Jagger is also worthy of such an honor and would maintain a necessary appearance of fairness and representative of both sides of the justice system.

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/2020/07/29/robert-jagger-pinellas-pascos-first-public-defender-dies-at-92/>

Thank you in advance.

Haydee Oropesa, Attorney
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Carpenter, Katherine

From: Sprowls, Chris <Chris.Sprows@myfloridahouse.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: Renaming of Criminal Justice Center
Attachments: Support Letters.pdf

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Dear Commissioner Seel,

Attached please find copies of letters of support for the renaming of the Pinellas County Criminal Justice Center from the following for your consideration:

Congressman Gus Bilirakis
Congressman Charlie Crist
Senator Darryl Rouson
Honorable Bob Dillinger
Honorable Bruce Bartlett
Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Honorable Ken Burke
Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino
Judge Michael Andrews
Mayor Frank Hibbard
Mayor Chris Alahouzos
President Tonjua Williams, St. Petersburg College
YMCA of the Suncoast (Board Chair Matt Crum and President Scott Goyer)
Susan Rolston, Chair Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce
Amplify Clearwater
Bjorn E. Brunvand, Esq., Brunvand Wise, P.A.
Curtis M. Crider, Esq., Bauer Crider Kenny & Parry, P.A.
Michael Kenny, Esq., Bauer Crider Kenny & Parry, P.A.
Honorable Peter M. Dunbar, Dean Mead & Dunbar, P.A.
Katie Cole, Esq., Hill Ward Henderson

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your consideration at the meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Sincerely,



Chris Sprowls, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol, Suite 420
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Ph: 850-717-5000

