

Ask the Mayor
December 2007
Bridgeton Calendar
mayor@cityofbridgeton.com

I am inviting all citizens to join us this Thursday evening, December 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cumberland County Court House to attend an important meeting of the Cumberland County Freeholders to voice your concerns over their decision to locate the new Prosecutor's office outside of our city. If you can't make the meeting, make a point of signing the petition that is presently being circulated throughout our city and/or call the county freeholder board offices @ 856-453-2125 and make sure they know you want this built behind city hall.

Shortly after Election Day they announced their decision to build the new Prosecutor's office on the grounds of the County complex citing that their decision to build there was based upon the sake of economy. They have determined that it would be more expensive to build the site in Bridgeton than it would to build it on the county grounds despite the fact that Bridgeton had promised *to give them the land behind our City Hall free of charge.*

Their decision is costing the taxpayers of Bridgeton in countless ways:

- 200 lost jobs located within our city. That's over \$8,000,000.00 plus in annual salaries.
- Added expense to the taxpayers county-wide for costly and continuous transportation to and from the county complex to the County Courthouse located in our city including vehicles, gasoline and the travel time.
- 200 professionals who would have patronized our local businesses for goods and services fueling our local economy. Ruefully \$4,000,000.00 lost.
- A multi million dollar construction project for a premiere facility that would have added exponentially to the City of Bridgeton.

The County Freeholders have a budget surplus of \$15 million dollars sitting in their coffers right now. This surplus could be used to offset the difference in construction costs between the two sites and see that this project would be built in our city.

Let them know that we expect more from them! Let them know that we expect them to carefully consider the economic impact of their decisions and that we encourage them to examine the broader picture....not just to have a 'knee jerk' reaction to preliminary construction estimates. They have a duty to each and every one of us to do the right thing and to carefully evaluate the overall economic impact as well as the long term operational costs associated with their decision. This would constitute a balanced and responsible commitment to the citizens and we believe that this is a responsibility that should be inherent in their decision making process.