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*Brad Ashford*  
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September 24, 2018

**VIA E-MAIL**

Mary Ann Borgeson, Chair  
Douglas County Board of Commissioners  
1819 Farnam Street  
LC2 Civic Center  
Omaha, NE 68183

**In re: Douglas County Juvenile Justice Center**

Dear Chair Borgeson:

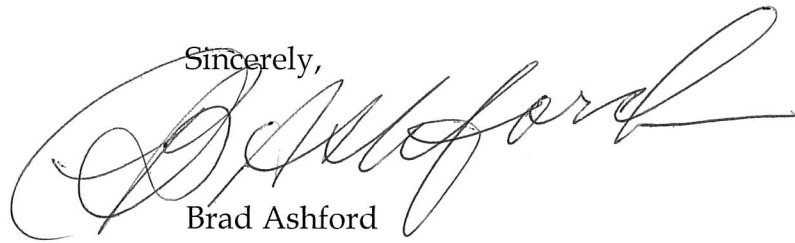
I have been working on juvenile justice issues for many years. With the assistance and leadership of the Douglas County Board, the judiciary, and the Douglas County Attorney, we passed significant legislation to reform juvenile justice by decreasing the need for detention and adopting evidence-based programming. What has always been missing is a facility that will address in a comprehensive manner the needs of our youth. I know we have the team in State, County and City government to address these needs. A new facility will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their efforts.

I have worked on many downtown projects. I understand how deeply people care about the City and its future. I understand that there are businesses and developers in the area who have raised issues about the location and function of the new Juvenile Justice Center. No project will ever satisfy everyone, but I am convinced that this project must proceed. In this regard, I am absolutely convinced that housing juveniles in the current detention center or somewhere else will decrease the effectiveness of combining the juvenile justice functions in one location. In this regard, I am confident that the concerns of the neighborhood can be addressed appropriately.

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This project is long past due. In the spirit of projects such as the Buffett Cancer Center and other public-private partnerships in this community, this project, both the new facility and the programs administered there, will help save the lives and futures of many of our troubled youth, promote public safety, and enhance and improve the surrounding neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ashford", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Brad Ashford".

Brad Ashford

BA:cja

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