



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary
William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary

December 4, 2019

Dear Jodi Miller:

I first want to thank Durham County for its years of commitment to serving juveniles at the Durham County Youth Home. This long and collaborative partnership has benefited your community by keeping young people close to home while ensuring public safety. Research has clearly demonstrated that keeping young people closer to home while being detained results in far better outcomes for the young person and better outcomes for the community through enhanced public safety.

With the passage and upcoming implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, better known as Raise the Age, the Department hopes to continue and possibly enhance the services offered at the Durham County Youth Home. This letter serves as a commitment to your County by the Department to help support the expansion of the youth home and our willingness to help with this expansion where practical. Our projections show that Durham County could support a detention facility which would house at least 30 juveniles. This would include serving juveniles in surrounding counties.

I am enclosing a generic agreement which we are willing to amend or enhance to meet the unique needs of your county. I look forward to working with Durham County to negotiate favorable terms in the agreement to benefit the county, the state, our young people, and their families. To ensure the county would be wisely investing in the expansion of the Durham Youth Home we are willing to guarantee minimal usage of the home and a base reimbursement rate be included in this agreement.

I look forward to working with Durham County as you pursue the expansion and renovation of the Durham County Youth Home. It is important for the state to lock in certainty as far as beds the county is committed to providing so we do not find those beds in other locations in the state. The sooner we know what the County is committed to the better. We look forward to hearing about your final plans soon.

Sincerely,

William Lassiter
Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice
North Carolina Department of Public Safety

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