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April 22, 2016

Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 S.W. Fourth Ave., Suite 7100
Portland, Oregon 97201-5380

Re: Multnomah County Central Courthouse (MCCCH) Project:
Amendment to Minimum Height Limit on block 8, Portland

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commissioners:

The purpose of my letter is to provide testimony in support of the requested building height increase from 200' to 325' on Block 8 to accommodate the proposed MCCCH. I write to you in my professional capacity as the District Attorney for Multnomah County to convey the importance of the construction of the new courthouse from my organization's perspective.

There is great need for a larger courthouse that is modern, welcoming and user-friendly. The Courthouse is the heart of our community justice system. Expanding the height of this critically important building will allow it to economically house all necessary system partners in one place, which is vital to users such as the general public, crime victims, jurors, the sheriff's office, the defense bar, police agencies, the press, the district attorney's office, and the judiciary. The chosen location, with the ease of access and visibility it provides, is excellent. This courthouse, done well, will provide for our community justice needs in a dignified and appropriate fashion for generations. You are creating a vital building block for our community's future, and it must be large enough to do the job.

I also strongly support leaving the current courthouse open until the new one is ready. The current building meets our needs sufficiently to bridge the gap until our new, long-term solution is in place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

ROD UNDERHILL
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon