

Response to statements attributed to Mr. Tracci in the November 2, 2016 article appearing in Charlottesville Tomorrow:

The resolution adopted by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors on November 2 directed County staff to explore the possibilities of relocating either court facilities or County administration offices to an urban area in the County. The resolution also directed that these relocation possibilities be explored and vetted before the County engages in additional negotiations with the City regarding keeping the court facilities in Downtown Charlottesville.

With respect to the court facilities, the Board is performing its duties as the governing body of Albemarle County. Under Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1638 and 15.2-1639, the Board is responsible for providing courthouses with suitable space and facilities to accommodate judges, the clerk, the Commonwealth's attorney, and other court officials. The costs of courthouses are chargeable to the County.

The operations of the courts have previously been studied and will continue to be studied as the Board and County staff evaluate available options. In the end, the Board will make an informed decision that considers the fair and equal administration of justice, the efficient operation of the courts and their related offices, and the costs – which will ultimately be borne by the County's taxpayers. Because the costs of any option being considered will be significant, the Board is compelled to consider long-term solutions to the needs of the County's residents.

The Board will not decide whether the court facilities are to be relocated from their current location in Court Square in Downtown Charlottesville. Under Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1644 through 15.2-1646, that decision would ultimately rest with the voters of Albemarle County in an election on the question. The Board's role is to consider adopting a resolution asking the court to order that election.