



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

July 21, 2023

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Mr. Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Administrator Carnahan and Director Wray:

As GSA and the FBI continue their evaluations of each of the three sites for the FBI Headquarters, we write to reaffirm the Commonwealth of Virginia's firm commitment to this transformational project. While we are concerned that the recent changes to the criteria will further delay what has already been a drawn-out, decade-long process to select a new site to replace the dilapidated headquarters downtown, we remain confident that Virginia continues to be a home run in every category. We urge for a fair, fact-based analysis of the critical attributes outlined throughout this project, and we encourage you to draw this process to a close, sooner rather than later.

The Springfield site presents the government with a comprehensive and holistic candidate location to house the FBI, as it excels across all criteria. Springfield would provide the men and women of the FBI with a location that best enables them to meet their critical law enforcement and national security missions, allow GSA to make a site selection according to best practices in public real estate acquisitions, and provide the government with a strong and exciting opportunity to meet its community investment goals.

Criteria #1: FBI Proximity to Mission-Related Locations

The Springfield site is the optimal location to unite Bureau employees across the NCR and increase collaboration, with the closest proximity to Quantico and a number of other FBI and operationally significant agency real estate assets already located throughout Northern Virginia, including the FBI Central Records Complex. Collocating these personnel with upgraded IT and improved infrastructure would advance investigations, and allow for the quickest response time for first responders in multi-agency scenarios.

In choosing Springfield, the FBI will also leverage strategic proximity to other key law

enforcement, Intelligence Community, and national security assets in Northern Virginia, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, National Reconnaissance Office, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Transportation Security Administration, Drug Enforcement Administration, Army Intelligence, and a range of other federal assets.

Criteria #2: Transportation Access

The Springfield site sits at the nexus of a robust, multimodal transportation network. The site is a short walk from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, which is also home to VRE rail and a Fairfax Connector bus hub – which, as the largest local bus system in Virginia, operates roughly 20 routes from the Franconia-Springfield Station. Service is currently being expanded to include additional stops throughout the county, and Fairfax is also undertaking studies to inform future transit improvements in the area for increased route optimization.

Virginia has made more than \$15 billion in fully-funded and planned, or already completed, multimodal improvements that will directly benefit workers at a Springfield headquarters location, allowing for easier, more regular transit options and accessibility. Considering daily transportation needs of the workforce, and the swift response needed during a national security emergency, when every minute and every mile counts, Springfield is the best option.

Criteria #3: Site Development Flexibility and Schedule Risk

As the only site under consideration that is federally owned by GSA, the Springfield site offers the greatest development flexibility to the FBI, as work on and around the site could commence immediately. The geometry and zoning of the site allows the FBI full workability for current and future growth opportunities, including office and scientific research, development, and training use.

To help the project maintain schedule, Fairfax County provides a dedicated liaison to work with local government to expedite permitting and construction activities. Finally, as detailed in information provided to GSA, if Springfield were selected, the Virginia state- and local-level teams, all of whom have significant experience managing schedule risk and complex development projects, would work to match site construction to the government’s preferred timeline, at cost savings to the taxpayer.

Criteria #4: Promoting Sustainable Siting and Advancing Equity

Selecting the Springfield site would represent a strong commitment to advancing equity and support for underserved communities. Springfield and the surrounding areas are home to a highly diverse community, which faces a unique range of challenges. In Springfield, the government has an opportunity to significantly expand economic opportunity and growth to a highly diverse and vulnerable area. The Northern Virginia region has a strong track-record of ensuring diverse communities benefit from transformational economic opportunities – a track record that will be critical in seeing this project through and ensuring its impacts are felt in the community.

Northern Virginia is rich in racial, ethnic, religious, and international diversity. It is home to large populations of Black, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American people, among others – roughly 1.5 million non-white or Hispanic residents in total. Since 2000, Northern Virginia’s Asian and Hispanic or Latino communities have seen significant growth, and represent the region’s fastest growing groups. In addition, nearly 30 percent of residents are foreign-born, which is double the national average – Fairfax County specifically ranks 22nd nationwide among jurisdictions with foreign-born population. In the Fairfax County school district, 182 different languages or dialects are spoken at students’ homes. In the neighboring Alexandria City school district, more than 50 percent of students speak a language other than English at home – the most frequent among those students being Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic.

One of the many ways in which the diversity of Fairfax and the region would strengthen the ability of the FBI to execute its mission, is through our education systems and institutions, which are training some of the top talent in our country. Fairfax is home to George Mason University – Virginia’s largest and most diverse public university, and the seventh-most diverse in the nation – which boasts one of the top Criminology Law and Society programs in the country. Marymount University, in neighboring Arlington County and a Hispanic-Serving Institution, offers the FBI a unique talent pipeline, as its students are required to complete an internship prior to graduation – many of which are in fields including cybersecurity, forensic and legal psychology, and criminal justice. The Northern Virginia Community College system – which is the third-largest community college in the nation, a minority-serving institution, and has a campus directly adjacent to the Springfield site – provides graduates a range of relevant training and education, including through its cybersecurity program that has been designated as a Center of Excellence. These institutions, through leading programs in criminology, criminal justice, cybersecurity, AI, and machine learning, offer talented and diverse workforce pipelines for the FBI.

In addition to the strength of our diversity, the Springfield site offers the federal government the opportunity to help address inequities that exist in our region. The Springfield area, which itself is a majority-minority community, and the surrounding communities located in the Eastern parts of Fairfax and Prince William Counties and Western parts of Alexandria, face unique challenges. The Franconia District, which houses the proposed location for the FBI, faces significant economic and social barriers that have greatly impacted disadvantaged and underserved communities. Local governments and regional governing bodies have identified surrounding areas as highly vulnerable based on key indicators, including high concentrations of low-income occupations, low rates of educational attainment and health insurance, and lower rates of English-speaking proficiency, among others.

Regarding sustainability, Virginia’s commitment to affordable, reliable, and clean energy, has been nationally recognized and outlined in Virginia’s Energy Plan. From hydroelectricity to nuclear energy, the Commonwealth has been home to some of the nation’s greatest energy innovations. Building on this legacy, Virginia pursues a balanced approach that harnesses nuclear, natural gas, renewables, and new energy sources to satisfy the increasing energy needs of the Commonwealth. This approach ensures that Virginia families and businesses have access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy. In fact, from 2010-2020, the Energy Information Administration reports that Virginia reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 43%.

Criteria #5: Cost

As previously noted, because the Springfield site is the only federally owned property, its selection would present an opportunity for significant cost savings for the Federal government. Additionally, and related to site preparation and off-site improvement costs, Virginia has put forward a robust funding package to address infrastructure at and around the site, significantly reducing this cost. Details of this package, which represents partnership at both the State and local levels, were provided to GSA in a previous submission by Virginia, and help to further reduce the cost of the Springfield site – making its selection a fiscally responsible one for taxpayers. Finally, as the Springfield site is the only site that is federally owned, and is already under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of GSA, it presents advantages for the government regarding site preparation and construction timelines. In recent years, the factors impacting availability and timeliness of the Springfield site have seen accelerated progress, which significantly reduces any purported delta between the various sites, and previous estimates of associated cost.

In conclusion, Virginia’s proposal for a consolidated FBI headquarters offers a reliable partnership, exceeding the site selection criteria across all categories. The optimized GSA Springfield site provides superior proximity to law enforcement and national security-related agency assets; an accessible, robust transportation and public transit network; significant site development flexibility as the only federally-owned site under consideration, with a commitment to expediting any permitting and construction processes, and minimizing schedule risk; a proven record of, and strong commitment to advancing equity in local communities and promoting sustainable siting; and a substantial cost benefit, with Virginia’s strong commitment to making this a responsible choice for the taxpayer.

The Commonwealth is eager to welcome the FBI to a new headquarters in Springfield, Virginia. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn Youngkin
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



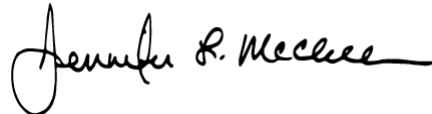
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