



Rensselaer County Legislature

Office of the Minority

February 25, 2008

Ginny O'Brien
Minority Leader

Imitation on Jail Plan Flattering

Keith A. Hammond
Deputy Minority Leader

Dear Editor,

Imitation is said to be the sincerest form of flattery. This statement is reflected in life and political circles.

DISTRICT 1
Peter D. Grimm

The Democratic Minority of the Rensselaer County Legislature proposed taking a look at alternatives to the mandated expansion of the Rensselaer County Jail. While our facility is being forced by the state to expand, state facilities in Hudson and Wilton are slated to close.

DISTRICT 2
Keith A. Hammond
Kevin Harrington
Ginny O'Brien
Brian S. Zweig

A unique window of opportunity to explore possibilities for regionalization and reuse of existing facilities has opened. Facing a \$50 million price tag in Rensselaer County, Democratic Legislators proposed taking a look at alternatives versus voting for a bonding issue.

DISTRICT 4
Flora Fasoldt

To that end, recent positive developments have occurred. An Assemblyman representing Saratoga County is in agreement with us that a regional approach commands a second look. Discussions have been held with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and DOCS for a meeting in early March. On February 26, 2008 a meeting between Commission on Corrections and Rensselaer County officials was also scheduled.

All agree with our opinion that we need to examine this issue fully and see if, in fact, any alternatives to the expansion exist and are workable. Our call for responsible government has been heeded. We look forward to these discussions and the cooperation across the many levels of government involved.

Such cooperation is good for our constituents. Isn't that flattering??

Ginny O'Brien

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Minority Leader
Rensselaer County Legislature