



Buncombe County Government

George Wood
Interim County Manager

July 3, 2018

Memo to: Board of Commissioners

From: George Wood, Interim County Manager *GW*

Re: Proposal to Move Veterans Office to the DHHS Building at Coxe Avenue

I met last week with Jim Holland, Stoney Bevins, and the Veterans Services Officer Heath Smith to discuss the location of the Veterans Services Office. We toured the existing office and some available cubicle office space on the 7th floor of the 40 Coxe Avenue DHHS Building. We are all in agreement that moving to that location presents several improvements for our veterans:

- There is ample parking with over 600 parking spaces in the attached parking garage;
- For those using public transportation, the City's Bus Transfer Station is literally across the street;
- Veterans is a part of DHHS, providing social services, and if one of our veterans services officers realizes that a client could benefit from any services provided by social services or public health, those providers would be in the same building. This would make it easier to make a referral and see that the client is introduced to the provider.
- There is a security door as you come off the 7th floor elevator. We would create a small lobby area there, then call the clients back in order of arrival or appointment time.

Heath Smith has reached out to several contacts in the veteran's community (see attached email) and we don't anticipate any major concerns with the move. We would plan to move on August 6th, which would give us plenty of time to advertise the change.

If you approve this move, it would free up the Veterans Office for us to move some Community Engagement folks from the 3rd floor of our building to that location. I have some plans for moving some other staff on the 3rd floor near my office that Community Engagement now occupies.

I recommend that you approve the relocation of personnel as outlined above.

Please call me if you have any questions or comments on this matter.

George Wood

From: Heath Smith
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 8:12 AM
To: George Wood
Cc: Stoney Blevins
Subject: Veterans Service Office

Mr. Wood,

Our office put out some feelers in the Veteran community to get some input surrounding our move to 40 Coxe Avenue. We did not receive any notable push back from the sources we spoke with. We will continue to gauge the pulse of the Veterans we assist until the move has been formally approved. Please let me know if anything further is needing from our office in regards to the move.

Thanks,
Heath Smith
Veterans Services Supervisor
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