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**U.S. General Services Administration Evaluating Existing Federal Building as a Potential Solution for New U.S. Courthouse**

***Use of Existing Site Would Keep Courthouse in Civic and Legal Center with No Loss of Tax Revenue to City & Positive Economic Impact to 'Restaurant Row'***

**New Courthouse Will Address Security Concerns**

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is now actively evaluating the current site of the Federal Building at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut Streets as the future home of Harrisburg's new courthouse.

"We are listening to the concerns of the community and responding with ideas to solve the problem," stated GSA Regional Administrator Barbara L. Shelton. "This option will do no harm to Harrisburg's tax base and will not require the relocation of any residences or businesses. In addition, it keeps public access to the court system conveniently located in the civic and business district of Harrisburg."

Shelton noted that, "GSA could potentially create new taxable property for the City of Harrisburg, because this solution would be placing at least 50,000 square feet of non-court federal agencies, now in the existing building, into the commercial market within the City of Harrisburg."

Locating the new U.S. Courthouse at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Walnut Streets would require the demolition of the existing Ronald Reagan Federal Building and the temporary relocation of the courts and other offices. Preliminary studies have already been done on this option, but GSA will fully evaluate this alternative and expect to complete this evaluation in 90 days.

The construction project will bring almost 500 new jobs to the city resulting in more than \$70 million of direct and indirect, spin-off economic benefits for the City of Harrisburg. These benefits will be in the form of tax revenue from salaries and an increase in the amount of revenue for local businesses, restaurants and other services located downtown.

Shelton noted that security is and has always been a primary driver in the need for a new courthouse. The internal circulation and space needs are the security drivers, not the setback alone. Because of the lack of separate internal circulation paths in the Ronald Reagan Federal Building, the public, judges, and prisoners must all share the same hallways and elevators in the building. The new courthouse would remedy the circulation problem and, with the use of fortified materials, be safe and extremely secure.

Shelton concluded, "Whenever you make these types of decisions, plenty of trade-offs and discussions occur. I thank Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey and Congressman Tim Holden for their leadership on this project."

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Founded in 1949, GSA serves as a centralized procurement and property management agency for the federal government. GSA manages more than one-fourth of the government's total procurement dollars and influences the management of \$500 billion in federal assets, including 8,300 government-owned or leased buildings and 170,000 vehicles. GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 420 historic properties, and as manager of USA.gov, the official portal to federal government information and services. GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and e-travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.