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Joint Board Matter

Chairman Bulova
Supervisor McKay

January 10, 2012

Madam Chairman—the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is considering moving its headquarters out of the J. Edgar Hoover building in Washington, D.C. and consolidating its Washington-area facilities elsewhere.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has passed a resolution that would authorize the General Services Administration (GSA) to seek a consolidated headquarters facility for the FBI. Should this resolution become law, a private sector firm would build a 2.1 million square foot facility on federally owned land that would be leased to the FBI. The estimated savings to the government are significant—nearly \$44 million a year.

There are many reasons for the FBI to leave its current headquarters. The almost 40-year-old building is deteriorating and the cost of renovating it, demolishing and rebuilding on the same site, or finding a new site to consolidate its network of about 20 satellite locations are all estimated to

cost \$1 billion or more. The building is overcrowded and its lack of physical and information security compromises national security.

The FBI needs 2 million square feet of office space, located within two miles of a Metro station and within 2.5 miles of the Beltway according to the GAO. Redeveloping existing sites in DC would be extremely expensive, especially given the post-911 security features that are now required.

After the BRAC Mark Center debacle that saw thousands of jobs moved to a location with no transit and a traffic-choked highway system, moving the FBI headquarters to the GSA site would be a chance for the federal government to make a smart decision. The GSA site is already owned by the federal government. It is adjacent to the Franconia/Springfield Metro Station, VRE, AMTRAK, bus service, and every highway except Route 66. Additionally, airport access is now available by road and will shortly be served by two Metro stations once Rail to Dulles is completed.

The GSA site in its current configuration is a dinosaur. Several half empty wooden roofed buildings sit next to the Joe Alexander Transportation Center and one of the most heavily used Metro stations in the entire Metro system.

While the benefits to the federal government of relocating the FBI to the GSA site would be substantial, Fairfax County would also benefit. In addition to the high paying jobs that would come to the area, redevelopment of this site could spur construction of other office projects nearby and expand our commercial tax base.

Madam Chairman, I ask that this board unanimously endorse the GSA site as the location for FBI headquarters and that a letter be sent from you to the GSA, FBI director, and members of our congressional delegation.

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