

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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YOU ALREADY PAY FOR COUNTY COURT SERVICES; TELL THE COMMISSIONERS YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY TWICE

By Mayor John Evans

I want all of our residents to know there is a momentous and far-reaching economic threat facing our residents. **Those of us who live in Garden City are being asked to pay even more than we are already paying for the services provided at the Ada County Courthouse.**

Six years ago, Ada County sued Meridian and Garden City in an attempt to force the cities to build a courthouse in each of their respective cities. This was due to a forgotten 1994 court order (enclosed). The old forgotten order was issued 22 years ago when magistrate court facilities were located on Barrister Street in Boise. Overcrowding at the Barrister facility was an issue in 1994. However, times have changed since 1994.

In 1996, the cities and county asked all county residents to support a new consolidated courthouse. The voters overwhelmingly approved that request and the new courthouse was built. At that time, the 1994 order became unnecessary and fell by the wayside. **It literally went into a drawer and was forgotten.** The forgotten 1994 court order was never mentioned by the County leaders when the new consolidated courthouse was planned. The new consolidated courthouse opened in 2002 on Front Street in Boise, and all citizens of Ada County have paid and are paying for that building and court services through property taxes.

Our Ada County Commissioners now want to enforce this forgotten 1994 order, and force the cities to either construct new courthouse facilities in their respective jurisdictions or pay the county a fee. This is absurd when you think about it. The Ada County Courthouse is a ten minute drive from Garden City and overcrowding is not an issue. The county's real motive is to force the cities to each pay it a large sum of additional tax dollars to satisfy the forgotten 1994 order. It is a simple shakedown for more taxpayer money. The county asserts that if the cities pay them additional money, then we do not have to build a courthouse. But look at your tax bill; you already pay Ada County taxes, as well as city taxes. That should be enough.

Garden City is not going to be chained to an additional large annual payment to Ada County for services its residents are already paying for. Additionally, I do not think you should have to pay more for another courthouse in Garden City for redundant services. **Yet, Ada County is asking you, the taxpayers of Garden City, to either provide unnecessary court facilities or pay twice for the current courthouse. This is a gross misuse of your money.** As the Mayor of this great city, I will do all I can to stop this from happening. This is not how we do business in Garden City and we will not let the county do business this way either.

I am asking each of you to call your Ada County Commissioners and tell them you should not be forced to pay twice. As taxpayers, whether you live in the cities or unincorporated areas, we already pay for the court services through county taxes and court fees. There are six candidates running for two Ada County Commission seats, so please inquire regarding their position on this very important issue prior to voting.

Make your concerns be known. Contact the **Ada County Commissioners: boccl1@adaweb.net or 208-287-7000.**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN RE: FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT,
STAFF PERSONNEL, SUPPLIES AND
OTHER EXPENSES OF THE
MAGISTRATE DIVISION

ORDER

No. 94-08-0012

Having reviewed the Petition filed by the City of Boise and Ada County, the undersigned District Judges of the Fourth Judicial District have concluded that the volume of work generated by the processing of citations and complaints through the Magistrate Division of the Fourth District have reached such levels that it is no longer reasonable for the City of Boise and Ada County to bear sole financial responsibility for the processing of citations and complaints issued by other municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, the City of Garden City, Idaho, pursuant to authority provided in Idaho Code 1-2218, provide by October 1, 1994 suitable and adequate quarters for the magistrate's division of the Fourth Judicial District, including the facilities and equipment necessary to make the space provided functional for its intended use, and shall provide for the staff personnel, supplies and other expenses of the magistrate's division. The suitability and adequacy of said quarters, facilities, equipment, staff personnel, supplies and other expenses are subject to final approval by this Court.

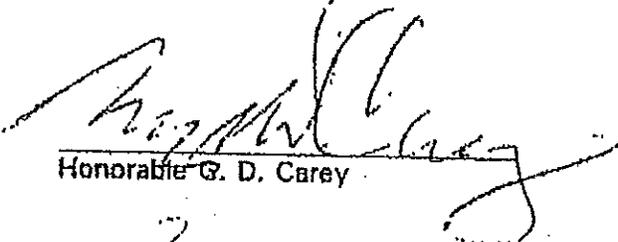
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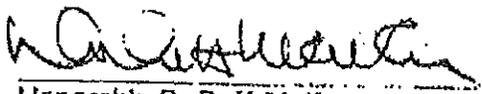
FURTHER, THAT the City of Meridian, Idaho, pursuant to authority provided in Idaho Code 1-2218, IS HEREBY ORDERED to provide by October 1, 1994 suitable and adequate quarters for the magistrate's division of the Fourth Judicial District, including the facilities and equipment necessary to make the space provided functional for its intended use, and shall provide for the staff personnel, supplies and other expenses of the magistrate's division. The suitability and adequacy of said quarters, facilities, equipment, staff personnel, supplies and other expenses are subject to final approval by this Court.

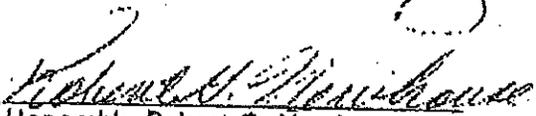
IT IS SO ORDERED.

August 12, 1994
DATED: July 28, 1994

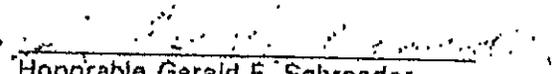

Honorable R. Deborah Ball

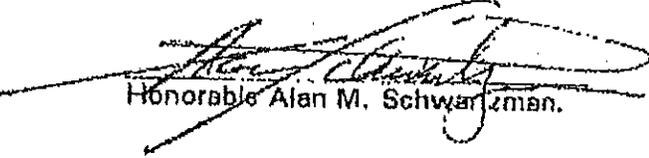

Honorable G. D. Carey


Honorable D. Duff McKee


Honorable Robert G. Newhouse


Honorable Robert M. Rowett


Honorable Gerald F. Schroeder


Honorable Alan M. Schwartzman.

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