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30 May 2013

Mr. F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator
Montgomery County, VA
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E
Christiansburg, VA 24073-3181

Re: Montgomery County Courthouse and Parking Structure
ADA Design Inquiry
T&L Project No. 8219-50

Dear Mr. Meadows:

In response to your email to Steve Phillips dated 28 May 2013 regarding an inquiry by Mr. Bill Murray related to ADA compliance of the new courthouse we offer the following:

In the summer of 2009, prior to the commencement of construction, the courthouse project design was submitted for code compliance review to the International Code Council, Birmingham District Office in Birmingham, Alabama. Several iterations of comments and responses followed resulting in a recommendation for approval and subsequent issuance of the building permit by the Town of Christiansburg.

In addition, as part of this response, Thompson & Litton has again reviewed the 2006 Virginia Construction Code, chapter 11 and ANSI 117.1 2003 "Accessible and Usable Building Facilities" that contain the scoping and compliance requirements for new buildings in effect at the time the building was designed and constructed. The following is our response to the recent questions presented to Montgomery County by Mr. Murray:

1. *Signage for the Handicap parking and building access was not visible from Main Street.*

   Handicapped parking spaces are marked with the required signage.

   Signage is required at entrances where not all entrances are accessible. All entrances to the courthouse are accessible. There is only one public entrance and it is accessible.

   Accessibility is integrated into the design. Persons with disabilities are not required to enter the building through separate or special entrances. We could find no requirement in

the Building Code or ANSI 171.1 2003 that requires signs to be visible from a public way at a fully accessible facility.

2. *The parking deck had no clear ADA access to the building; there were stairs, but no elevator.*

   Accessible Parking is provided at street level at the new Pepper Street/ Triangle parking lot and at the secure reserved lower level of the parking structure. Additional interim HC parking is available behind the old courthouse adjacent to the flower shop (it is our understanding that final modifications to the interim area will occur when the Public Safety Building is completed). The upper level of the parking structure was not designed to be an accessible lot and there are no spaces indicated as such.

3. *The counters at the service windows were all too high for someone in a wheelchair to use.*

   One transaction window in each of the Clerks Offices is designed to be wheelchair accessible with the counter top located at 2'-10" above the finished floor. This includes 113 Circuit Court Clerk's Office on the 1st floor, 240 J&D Clerk's Office on the second floor, and 318 District Court Clerk's Office on the Third Floor.

4. *There was no TTY phone available in the public area for the hearing impaired.*

   There are no public phones. We know of no requirement to provide public phones. When public phones are provided, TTY access must be provided. Assisted listening devices are provided in all courtrooms.

We are confident that the newly constructed courthouse facility, which has been granted an occupancy permit by the Town of Christiansburg is code compliant and meets the intent of the ADA requirements. If you have any questions regarding this information please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jack Murphy, AIA
Associate

pc: Steve Phillips – Montgomery County Facilities Director
Tony Kennedy, T&L