

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT OPPOSING  
SENATE PROPOSAL TO SPLIT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
AND CREATE A NEW JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, a proposal has been made to separate Nash County from the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and place it with Franklin, Granville and Person Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, splitting the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson Counties will create a new, approximately 100-mile long, "snake like", disjointed district with very little in common; and

**WHEREAS**, splitting the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District would result in undue burden on law enforcement, citizens, and local and state taxpayers in the Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson County areas, including, but not limited to the following:

- 1) The City of Rocky Mount and Town of Whitakers, are located in both in Edgecombe and Nash Counties, and the Town of Sharpsburg is located in Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson Counties. These municipalities are currently governed by the rules of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Splitting Nash County from the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District would place a burden on law enforcement, staff, taxpayers and court schedules by creating two judicial districts for these municipalities; and
- 2) All Rocky Mount cases on the Nash County side would need to be heard in Nashville (because the Rocky Mount Judicial Center is located in Edgecombe County) thereby increasing the caseload at the Nashville Courthouse and creating increased crowding and parking issues, likely forcing Nash County to build or lease court facilities in Rocky Mount; and
- 3) Nash County and state taxpayers would incur increased court costs because indigent Rocky Mount defendants would no longer be able to attend court at the Rocky Mount Judicial Center and would have to travel to Nashville for court. Many indigent defendants currently are able to walk to the Rocky Mount Judicial Center. Requiring all Nash County defendants to travel to Nashville will likely increase "failures to appear" resulting in jail fees, court costs, and law enforcement costs which many indigents cannot pay; and
- 4) Currently, all Nash County juvenile court cases are heard at the Rocky Mount Judicial Center located in Edgecombe County. Juvenile cases would then be required to be heard in Nashville and though Nash County is currently constructing a new courthouse, even the new facility would be inadequate for the additional caseloads, and would result in increased costs; and
- 5) The current 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is easily accessible by convenient four-lane highways (I-95, US 301, 64 and 264) and law enforcement officers in the tri-county area can conveniently meet personally with the District Attorney or any Judge after only a short drive. The proposed change could require local law enforcement to drive one to two hours, to meet with a new District Attorney or Judge creating additional expense for state and local government; and
- 6) Removing Nash County from the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District would result in inefficiency and considerable travel expense as a result of increased travel for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court officials from the current maximum distance of 27 miles to up to 100 miles; and

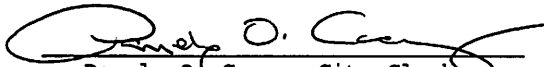
- 7) The current 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Guardian Ad Litem Program operates under one administrator for all three counties. Pulling Nash County from the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District would disrupt this program and impair the ability to track and protect children; and
- 8) Cost efficient, joint crime fighting task forces among law enforcement agencies in the District, all working successfully within the bounds of one set of local, prosecutorial policies, is just one example of the critical need to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District intact as one, compact, crime-fighting unit; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount hereby goes on record in support of preserving the current 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District consisting of Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson counties and in opposition to the proposal to place Nash County in a new judicial district and urgently requests support of the North Carolina Legislature to maintain the integrity of the current 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount hereby authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to correspond with the Legislative Delegation representing the City of Rocky Mount and to other members of the State Legislature to communicate the contents of this Resolution and the position of the Rocky Mount City Council.

Adopted this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

  
David W. Combs, Mayor

  
Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk