

RESOLUTION OF THE OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING THE
PROVISION OF COURTROOM SPACE FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ATHENS-CLARKE
COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Western Judicial Circuit is comprised of Athens-Clarke County and Oconee County, with four Superior Court judges presiding in Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties;

WHEREAS, of the three elevators in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, only one is currently operational resulting in the Clarke County Sheriff's Office being unable to safely escort defendants to and from the courtrooms in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse and being unable to ensure that the inmates will not come into contact with members of the public, victims and jurors;

WHEREAS, failure of the remaining elevator in the Athens-Clarke County will create a state of Judicial Emergency, requiring the quick and expeditious relocation of all court operations not currently located on the first floor and accessible by the public in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;

WHEREAS, the Oconee County Courthouse, located at 23 N Main Street, Watkinsville, Georgia is a suitable alternative location for holding necessary court proceedings;

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §15-6-18 provides that "if for any cause it shall be impracticable to hold any session of any superior or state court at the courthouse or other place provided by law therefor, it shall be lawful to hold such court at an alternative facility that the governing authority of the county or counties for such county or circuit, by appropriate resolution, deem would be in the best interest of the public with considerations for transportation burden being paramount"; and


WHEREAS, the Oconee County Board of Commissioners, having the legal responsibility for the operation of the Oconee County Courthouse, desires to provide assistance to the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court and finds that it would be in the best interests of the public to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Oconee County Board of Commissioners that upon the Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Western Judicial Circuit determining that it is necessary to hold the proceedings of the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court at the Oconee County Courthouse due to the issue described above, the Oconee County Courthouse shall be available for such proceedings during the time of such necessity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is hereby directed to determine the additional costs reasonably attributable to the use of the Oconee County Courthouse by the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court and to submit an invoice for same to the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County.

This 1st day of October, 2024.

Oconee County Board of Commissioners

By: 

John Daniell, Chairman

Attest: 

Holly Stephenson, Clerk

(County Seal)

