



*STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERAL COURTHOUSE LOCATION SELECTION
Provided to Commissioner Ben Sorensen, District IV, April 15, 2020*

Tarpon River Civic Association spent a significant amount of time discussing the location of the new Federal Courthouse during our board meeting on 4/14/2020. After thorough review, we were split as a board on our view regarding a preferred location. The discussion was focused on the two downtown locations and the location near the Tri-Rail Station on Broward.

The locations options discussed (as presented by the US General Services Administration):

- *Site 1: The Hudson Site: (bounded by Tarpon River on North, SE 4th Ave on the East, SE 11th St on the South, and SE 3rd Ave on the West)*
- *Site 2: The Tri Rail Broward Site: 200 SW 21st Terrace, Fort Lauderdale*
- *Site 3: The County Courthouse Site: (along Riverwalk near Jail/where current judicial parking lot is; Bounded by S New River Dr E, SE 1st Ave, and Broward County Jail)*
- *Site 4: The Tri-Rail Cypress Creek Site: 5910 NW 9th Ave, Fort Lauderdale*

However, what was determined as a consensus among the board members was the look of the building. The board feels strongly and wants to ensure that we are heard: this cannot be another "big box" building in our community - no matter the location. We ask that once the location is approved that there is significant importance placed on ensuring the Federal Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale is both architecturally striking and significant. We want this to be a point of pride of our community. Specifically it was discussed that if the location on the River is selected it must be a building that structurally "hides" the jail so that the view from the river will be something as a city we can be proud of and is visually appealing on the river. Again, this means architecturally significant and aesthetically pleasing from the river - the view of the jail would no longer exist.

We have seen in the past that during the approval process within the city for development, building designs change from what is initially approved to the final product. This comes in the shape of cheapened facade to buildings and the look becoming significantly less appealing than when initially presented and bought-into by the community. This particular project should be watched closely to ensure the look is one that brings pride and significance to Fort Lauderdale and what is presented in the beginning - meeting the request of architecturally significant - is the same as the final product.