AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Ratification of Correspondence; Colorado Departmen

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

The attached correspondence was informally approved and signed on 9/15/2015.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Katherine Haase for BOCC **Submitter's Email Address:** khaase@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 9/17/2015

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted:

Agenda Date: 10/6/2015

Revised April 2015

December 22, 2015

Barbara Brohl
Colorado Department of Revenue
Driver's License Administration
1881 Pierce Street, Room 136
Lakewood, CO 80214

RE: Gunnison Driver's License Office

Dear Ms. Brohl,

We are writing in regards to following up on the letter you received from the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners dated September 14, 2015 (a copy is attached for your reference) regarding the need to transition to new space for your driver's license office due to the increased volume of service demand you have experienced and its subsequent impacts on county services located in the building space you are currently using.

In the time since that correspondence we have not heard directly from you, but worked with John Swartout with the Governor's Office, to identify spaces available for rent in Gunnison that meet the actual space needed for services. We agree that you will not find suitable space for $152.80 per month (the rate the county has generously charged since 2005) but we need to be clear that there are a number of spaces available in Gunnison that would suite the size needs you have along with having ADA access and facilities. It is important to recognize that although the state rented +/- 125 square feet from Gunnison County, the square footage used was much more and it was those impacts to county offices and county functions that has driven the need for our request for the state to seek a more adequate space. Additionally, we have offered to personally take your staff on a tour of available resources in our community and that offer still stands. Simply put, you need to be open to paying a fair and market appropriate rate for the space needed to serve our citizens and communities in Gunnison County.

We are beginning to think that your agency is preparing to withdraw from our community altogether under the guise of no available space for rent, and that is clearly not the case. If we do not have this service in our community then our citizens are faced with driving at least 140 miles roundtrip to obtain or re-new a driver's license. Beyond the issue of placing an undue hardship on our citizens, there are no routes out of the Gunnison Valley that do not require driving over mountain passes and many times in winter this becomes a danger that should not be imposed on county residents because the services they pay for are not available here. <u>We ask that you commit to maintaining an office in the Gunnison Valley and a minimum level of service to our citizens and communities.</u> We stand by our commitment to be a partner in helping you identify all possible opportunities to allow a successful relocation and uninterrupted service to Gunnison County.

We look forward to your reply and in the spirit of the season wish you a Happy Holidays.
Best Regards,

Paula Swenson, Chairperson	Phil Chamberland, Commissioner	Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Encl: Correspondence; 9/14/2015

cc: Senator Kerry Donovan
Representative Millie Hamner
Representative J. Paul Brown
John Swartout
Governor John Hickenlooper

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

September 14, 2015

Barbara Brohl
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Driver's License Administration
1881 Pierce Street, Room 136
Lakewood, CO 80214

Dear Ms Brohl:

We are writing in regard to your agency's use of office space in the Gunnison County Government Center. The discussion about finding a **temporary** location began in 2005, and Gunnison County entered into a lease agreement on July 1, 2005. The termination date on the lease agreement was June 30, 2007 and it has not been extended or replaced. The rate has continued at $152.80 per month.

The Gunnison County Clerk and our Facilities Maintenance Director have had numerous discussions with your staff about the need for you to find another location. The Clerk's office needs the space to accommodate motor vehicle traffic, and it is obvious that your Gunnison office needs more space and additional hours of service. When the office is open the entire lobby of the Government Center is filled with people waiting to get a license. It is difficult for the staff in our Treasurer's and Assessor's office to provide quality service to their customers due to the congestion and the noise.

It is time for your agency to move forward and secure a location that better suits your needs. Our staff has made some suggestions as buildings have become available for lease. By December 31, 2015 of this year we need to know that you have secured a location and also the number of days and hours that you will be open to continue to provide service to your customers in the Gunnison Valley. We understand that there may be a delay in gaining occupancy and we are willing to work with you, but in all cases your last day in our facility to be February 28, 2016.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we will continue to advise your staff if we hear of offices that might be appropriate in private buildings.

Sincerely,

Paula Swenson, Chairperson | Phil Chamberland, Vice-Chairperson | Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Cc: Donovan/Hamner/Brown
Mike Dixon