



NEWS

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Montco Approves Plan Putting Three District Courts into Same Building

Norristown, PA (June 18, 2015) – The Montgomery County Commissioners today approved plans to consolidate three Magisterial District Courts in Norristown into one building. The move is estimated to save nearly \$47,000 a year and more than \$700,000 over the course of the 15-year lease.

The three courts that will be in the new space at Marshall and DeKalb Streets in Norristown are District Court 38-1-15 (Magisterial District Judge Francis Lawrence) now located at 200 West Main Street; District Court 38-1-16 (Magisterial District Judge Margaret Hunsicker) now located at 754 East Johnson Highway; and the newly-created District Court 38-2-09, which will be presided over by a judge elected in November.

The new court facility has been approved by President Judge William J. Furber, Jr., and it meets adjacency location requirements under state law. In addition to the cost savings, the new location has several other advantages, including:

- Readily accessible to public transportation
- Proximity to the Norristown police station two blocks away making it easier for police to attend court proceedings
- Adequate parking for police and staff
- Appropriate configuration for secure prisoner movement for the police as well as a secure entrance for staff and judges.

“The proposal is the first step of the long-term goal of consolidating appropriate courts that have adjacent districts into a single facility to reduce costs and create overall operational efficiencies,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

The 15-year lease with J.A.R. Investments, Inc. calls for an initial cost of \$19 per square foot, or \$13,194 rent per month. Increases are slated in the sixth year and the 11th year of the lease.