



**LATROBE**  
PENNSYLVANIA

CITY OF LATROBE

*Administration and*

*Finance Department*

901 Jefferson Street

P.O. Box 829

Latrobe, PA 15650

(724) 539-8548

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January 25, 2012

Paul S. Kuntz  
Westmoreland County Court Administrator  
2 North Main Street  
Mezzanine, Room M3  
Greensburg, PA 15601

RE: Proposal to Close the Unity Township Magisterial District Office

Dear Mr. Kuntz;

On behalf of the City of Latrobe I would like to express our strong opposition to the closing the Unity Township Magisterial District office as proposed by the Westmoreland County Courts. The presence of the US Route 30 corridor and its related retail and residential growth, the size of our area and convenience to our community require a re-valuation of by your office of this proposal.

The Greater Latrobe area encompassing Unity Township, the City of Latrobe and Youngstown Borough is one of the only areas of Westmoreland County to actually be increasing in population. Our 2010 population totaled at 31,271 and has increased by 12% since 1960 while the County as a whole is near its 1960 population total. The total land area of our community represents 7% of the County's land mass.

With the Route 30 corridor, Airport, St. Vincent College and downtown Latrobe our area is a center of commerce and industrial activity. We serve a retail trade area of over 50,000 people including most of eastern Westmoreland County. Nearly ten percent (8.6%) of the County's total population reside in our area. Historically Latrobe has been a significant hub of activity in Westmoreland County.

The City of Latrobe is a full service municipality with a full time police department. Our officers spend significant time adjudicating cases at the Magisterial District Office. Our citizens deserve to be served by an office in or near our city.

Lastly, in the 1990's the City lost its own Magisterial District Office on Ligonier Street in the City. We would rather not have to experience the loss of the office that services us again. It is frustrating that as a municipality directly affected by your decision we were not given the opportunity to know about this need to close an office until we read in the Tribune Review that our office was being closed.

Mr. Paul S. Kuntz  
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I am concerned that this decision was made for the benefit of the other sitting county judges. As I read the article in the paper it sounded to me as if the main consideration was the soon (2017) retirement of Judge Mahady. He turns 70 in 2016. Decisions with such lasting implications should not be made for the convenience of the other sitting judges, but for the people the offices serve.

Your proposal to close down the Unity Township Magisterial District office ignores history and geography. The caseload volume at the office is significant and other options must have been available to the Court Administrator's office in considering this closing. I implore you on behalf of the residents and police within our community to reconsider your decision. If you would like to discuss this further please contact me at 724-539-8548 or [agraziani@cityoflatrobe.com](mailto:agraziani@cityoflatrobe.com).

Sincerely,



Alexander J. Graziani  
City Manager

Copy: Mayor and Council  
Unity Township Supervisors  
Judge Mahady