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**From:** Toni Brady <[TBrady@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:TBrady@co.hernando.fl.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:23 PM

**To:** Jodi Florio <[JFlorio@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:JFlorio@co.hernando.fl.us)>

**Subject:** FW: Excess Fees From the Clerk

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**From:** Doug Chorvat <[dchorvat@hernandoclerk.org](mailto:dchorvat@hernandoclerk.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:49 PM

**To:** Jeffrey Rogers <[JRogers@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:JRogers@co.hernando.fl.us)>; Toni Brady <[TBrady@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:TBrady@co.hernando.fl.us)>; John Allocco <[JAllocco@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:JAllocco@co.hernando.fl.us)>; Steve Champion <[SChampion@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:SChampion@co.hernando.fl.us)>; Jerry Campbell <[JerryC@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:JerryC@co.hernando.fl.us)>; Brian Hawkins <[BHawkins@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:BHawkins@co.hernando.fl.us)>; Elizabeth Narverud <[ENarverud@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:ENarverud@co.hernando.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Jeff Gordon <[jgordon@hernandoclerk.org](mailto:jgordon@hernandoclerk.org)>

**Subject:** Excess Fees From the Clerk

Good afternoon everyone,

Attached you will find the excess fees letter from the Clerk's Office for FY ending 2023. As you can see, the amount is substantial. I want to both clarify why that is and ask that there be a consideration that some of the funds be earmarked for items that are needed for Hernando County and the Clerk's Office.

We had some key losses in staffed positions to my office, that to this day we are still struggling to fill. These positions were higher paid and with them remaining vacant allowed for much of the excess. Also, there were some technology projects that have been delayed due to supply issues both in hardware and in resources. I'd like to thank the Board for approving my budget request this past year that added 3 positions to the technology aspect that my office has taken on for the county. While the departments and constitutional offices we are providing support for had asked for 5 additional bodies, my team and I are of the opinion that we should start small and see how much better we can get from a service level perspective. We are (I am) happy to say that the Board audio/video equipment as well as the Emergency Operations Center will be completed, from what I am told, before the end of the calendar year.

I respectfully ask that from the returned fees that funds be set aside for some efficiencies for the county and my office. Some examples are:

- The remodel of the area formerly known as Rusty's Café. In the move, my team lost 2 breakrooms and Jeff Rogers offered this area up to us, to which I am very thankful. My wife and I spent a weekend up there trying to get that area clean, but with the years of neglect we were not able to make much of a dent. In looking at this space with facilities, we would request \$60,000 be set aside for this remodel.
- The preservation of Hernando's BOCC Records. With the help of the ARPA funds, we currently have our historical Marriage Licenses, Deeds and soon to be Official Records online from the history of our county pending quality and analysis which should be done in 1 month. We currently have our Board Records in paper and film format, and would like to preserve that history as well AND allow for the public to be able to see those records at their convenience. This project is estimated to be \$100,000.
- Space analysis. When we took on the IT area, we utilized this space as best we could in the existing floor plan. With the remodel of the courthouse, we were asked to update the datacenter located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. My team worked with the vendor to eliminate that part of the project and potentially save some funds and utilize space accordingly. I'd like to have someone come in and do a space analysis to fully utilize the space for our needs, so that we can accurately budget for that accordingly within the next two years. I am unsure as to how much this endeavor will actually be. We would ask that \$100,000 be

earmarked for this project to properly utilize the space and or change it as needed.

- One area of concern that we have remaining in our security toolbox for the county records was not budgeted for the upcoming year. With staffing issues, we have decided to change gears on this and not fill the position at the previous rate and purchase a software package that will help mitigate that security for the county. Without going into details due to security reasons in public records, I request \$80,000 for that project. I am available on a one on one basis for this item should you have questions.
- Last but certainly not least, space utilization at Forest Oaks. There is a lot of wasted, dead space in the area my office occupies. As Hernando continues to grow and customer service is needed, that is really the only area I have to expand in. This is the last item listed because I know Forest Oaks is kind of up in the air with the proposed building of a new Tax Collector office. I would ask that \$50,000 be set aside for the scope of how this space could be properly utilized/modernized.

With the original amount to be returned of \$1,535,238.63, the requested funds would bring that down to \$1,145,238.63 which is still a very significant number. I am proud of my staff and the services that we provide to our stakeholders, you, and more importantly our citizens.

As always, I am available should you have any questions regarding any of these items. Please DO NOT hesitate to reach out to me. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks and have a great day!

Doug

Doug Chorvat *CPM, CGCIO*  
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