Monroe A. Miller, Jr. 2200 Camp Branch Road Waynesville, NC 28786 May 6, 2021

**Subject:** Transcribed County Commission Meeting, 5/3/2021.

The following has been transcribed from the video of the county commission meeting held on 5/3/2021.

## https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVHgPWHTsuo

Here, all of the Republican County Commissioners describe how Donna Forga lobbied them all to recommend a Resolution in Support of House Bill 405. This transcription begins after James Weaver "Kirk" Kirkpatrick the III concludes his remarks presenting Regular Agenda item #1.

1:21:22 [Ensley] ... Does anybody have any other comments on that this morning or questions? I know Dotner - I'm sorry, Judge Forga had called me early on, when they considering this, and explained to me, and, and I know that the court is always way behind, especially with covid, and uh, not that we're do ing this because of covid, it's just a good - I think it would serve the citizens well, if they have, uh, if these court, issues can be brought quicker to the courts, and it would reduce their backlog. So, I'm highly in favor of it.

Everybody else have any comments?

- 1:22:01 [Rogers] I'd just the same here. I spoke with Ms. Forga as well, and she was in full support of it, and explained it to me, I had some questions, and she explained them to me, so I good with it as well.
- 1:22:20 [Long + Best, Long continues] Mr. Chairman, we also met with Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Best and I also met with Judge Letts, and he was explaining to us that, right now some of these folks that they have to sit in jail and wait for a pretrial hearing, sometimes for a greater amount of time, which also reflects back to our jail population, and so he indicated to us that we, if we, you know, if this were to come about, that our jail population might be affected, positively, as far as how many inmates we have per day, it we can gettum before a judge for a pretrial hearing and gettum on down the pipeline, and so he was telling us that, and that certainly is going to be a positive thing for us, considering where we are with the jail right now. And so also, Ms. Forga called me also, I think she called a lot of people, and uh, share with her shared her concern, and she's fully supporting it. I think, was it Representative, Mr. Clampitt, state representative that he submitted this bill, so yes, I don't have a problem with it.
- 1:23:25 [Best] As Tommy said, I spoke to Judge Letts and Judge Forga, and I also reached out to the DA's Office, I thought it would be good to be able see, you know, the concerns from both sides, but I think after speaking to everybody it definitely makes since for our area and those judges that are in this huge district sometimes are four and five hours a day on the road so it would make sense that it would be a much more efficent system if we had additional to hear cases.
- 1:23:57 [Ensley] Good points.