

March 4, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked with Architecture Studio Inc. (ASI) on a series of jail renovations & new construction projects. The most recent project was the Marion County Jail renovation & expansion. They demonstrated professionalism and have always respected that the project, budget and schedules were maintained. All of the projects for the Sheriff's office have been completed below budget and on time. They worked close with my staff as well as county staff and spent extra time looking at various options until all parties were satisfied with the project. Their experience helped save Marion County millions of dollars by providing design alternatives. The original Jail estimate was close to \$40 million dollars. Through a team effort, the project was completed for less than \$30 million and at the close of the project \$1.2 million dollars was returned to the MCBCC general fund.

Our \$30 million jail renovation and expansion project tied into the existing facility. The 165,000 square foot expansion provided a new jail kitchen, laundry, booking, sally port, property room, classifications, warrants, medical, and administration areas. The expansion included all state of the art core spaces plus, video visitation, security controls, first appearance court room, special needs, medical, kitchen facility designed for preparing up to 9,000 meals per day and two – 256 bed inmate housing units and one – 128 bed special needs housing unit with 12 individual cells for isolation of special need inmates, and a 25,000 sq. ft. booking building which are all connected to an 800 sq. ft. long security corridor. Included in the renovation project was a new Juvenile housing area which contained classroom and counseling space as well as a recreation area. ASI has also recently completed our \$5.5 million dollar Emergency Operations Center Complex and our \$41 million dollar Courthouse Expansion and renovation. ASI is currently working on our \$4.9 million dollar 911 Communication Center, which is under construction and approximately 70% complete.

ASI has a seasoned team of professionals. They are easy to talk to and they responded to all of our concerns and needs. Their design process involved appropriate input from the end users. They did not complicate matters and took a common sense approach to design.

I would recommend Architecture Studio, Inc. for any future project. My experience with them has been positive throughout the projects from the beginning to the end.

Sincerely,



Major Paul Laxton
Marion County Sheriff's Office
Corrections Bureau Chief
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