

**RESOLUTION NO. 4969**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ANALYSIS OF THE FACILITIES WITHIN THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE TO ENSURE SOUND DECISION MAKING, REQUESTING THE CONTINUED UTILIZATION OF THE ILLINOIS YOUTH CENTER – KEWANEE FOR CORRECTIONAL PURPOSES FOR YOUTH OR ADULT POPULATIONS, AND REQUESTING THE PROVISION OF FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE EVENT THE FACILITY IS NOT UTILIZED OR REPURPOSED WITHIN THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM.**

**WHEREAS,** The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice has the capacity to house 989 youth, but approximately 418 youth in custody; and

**WHEREAS,** The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kewanee recognize and appreciate the need for the State of Illinois and the Department of Juvenile Justice to ensure the good stewardship of public funds; and

**WHEREAS,** The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kewanee recognize, appreciate, and understand that the State of Illinois' budget situation necessitates the making of difficult decisions that, by definition, cannot be universally favored; and

**WHEREAS,** The Mayor and City Council believe that an honest, sincere, and objective review of the Department of Juvenile Justice facilities will reveal that the Kewanee facility is the newest within the system, is among the most efficient within the system, is uniquely designed to be the most flexible for housing multiple populations within the system, and has more than adequate labor force from which to draw potential employees to staff the facility; and

**WHEREAS,** The Illinois Department of Corrections suffers from overcrowding within the adult prison system and has multiple potential uses for the facility that could help to alleviate over-crowding, bring compliance with current legal challenges within the system, or otherwise provide improved service delivery; and

**WHEREAS,** General estimates on the potential closure of the facility indicate an economic impact ranging from \$55 million to \$75 million in total output for the region. Such studies, hastily completed *after* the decision was made to close the facility, indicate a significant impact on the community and the region.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE KEWANEE CITY COUNCIL, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1** The City of Kewanee supports the stewardship of public funds and the ability of the State of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice operating their facilities in a manner consistent with such principles. The City supports business decisions with data driven decision-making in lieu of decisions that are followed by hastily written, incomplete reports and inaccurate analysis that mitigates the impact of facility closure.


**Section 2** The City requests that an independent analysis be conducted of all DJJ facilities, making recommendations for closure based on the merits of the facilities in question and their ability to usefully serve the needs of the State and DJJ.

**Section 3** In the event of closure of the facility by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the City strongly encourages the use of the Kewanee facility by the Department of Corrections as an adult facility. A number of potential uses have been identified that would enable the Facility and its staff to remain as a contributing part of the system.

**Section 4** In the event of closure of the facility without repurposing by the Department of Corrections, the City of Kewanee respectfully requests financial assistance from the State of Illinois to help mitigate the economic impacts of the facility closure.

**Section 5** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Kewanee, Illinois this 28th day of March 2016  
ATTEST:

  
Melinda Edwards, City Clerk

  
Steve Looney, Mayor



RECORD OF THE VOTE	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Steve Looney	X			
Councilmember Andrew Koehler	X			
Councilmember Michael Yaklich	X			
Councilmember Kellie Wallace-McKenna				X
Councilmember Deann Schweitzer	X			