

Editor:

At Monday night's Board of Commissioners meeting [December 19th] City Manager Greg Ferrese announced that the Rehoboth Beach would soon begin "master planning for City offices." A Request for Proposals will be drafted and a planning firm that can carry the project through to completion will be sought. To underscore its importance Mayor Sam Cooper said, "we've got to look to the future." The mayor mentioned important elements like an adequate-sized Commissioner's meeting room, equipped with video systems for presentations and restroom facilities that can be available to the public every day.

While these all good and necessary ideas, Sam—we need to think bigger!

It's time to consider a City Center, a complex that incorporates several levels of underground parking, topped by a new multistory convention center; city offices could be consolidated around or above the facility. There is more than enough property to house these components at the current site.

This is just one idea and by no means an original one. As with the input you are encouraging for the CDP, the city should reach out for comments from business interests, residents and the many other stakeholders who could benefit from the project. This is one of those multi-year concepts that should be taken up in the Budget process this January. It would be useful to designate a chunk of time dedicated to such discussion, announced in advance with specific invitations to interested segments of the community.

This is more than a moment to look to the future; it's an opportunity to seize it!

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