

Jennifer Rivera (Administration)

From: Ari Mathe [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:42 AM
To: David Gibbs (County Commission); Kathy Cooper (County Commissioner); Gregg Poole (County Commissioner); Billy Powell (County Commission); Jeff Stowe (County Commission)
Cc: Jennifer Rivera (Administration)
Subject: Re: letter regarding UDC vote/moratorium on data and detention centers
Attachments: 8-13-26 - Letter to Hall County Commissers.pdf

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Please see attached letter pertaining to tonight's consideration of amending the UDC as well as extension of the current moratorium on data and detention centers.

Thank you,

Ari Ellerbe Mathe'
Attorney At Law
Child Welfare Law Specialist
[REDACTED] Phone
[REDACTED]

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ARIANNE E. MATHE'
Attorney At Law
Juris Doctor, Child Welfare Law Specialist

August 13, 2026

Commission Chair David Gibbs
Commissioner Kathy Cooper
Commissioner Gregg Poole
Commissioner Billy Powell
Commissioner Jeff Stowe
Jennifer Rivera, Commission Clerk

Chairman Gibbs and Commissioners:

I am reaching out again in my capacity as a citizen of South Hall County, a homeowner in this community, a parent with children in our local schools, and as a child welfare law specialist whose legal career over the last fifteen years has focused on the well-being and protection of our community's children. I have previously submitted comments during the public comment period about your work to amend the Unified Development Code but wanted to provide this letter in advance of your voting meeting this evening as I am unable to attend in person. Specifically, I would like to address the issues of this Commission's regulation of detention centers and data centers.

First, I implore this body to extend the existing moratoriums on both data centers and detention centers, which are set to expire later this month. The concerns about both types of facilities remain present at this time and, quite honestly, are even greater now than they were when each of you voted for the moratoriums currently in place.

With regard to data centers, each and every community in which such a business is established reports negative impacts on water availability and quality as well as noise pollution impacting local people and animals. Our jurisdiction has long been filled with strong proponents of environmental conservation, especially with regard to our precious resource of water. Since I moved to Hall County in 2005 I have been aware of the intense focus this community places on our water supply with regard to both its quantity and quality as well as the negative impacts on our area when either are lacking. Permitting establishment of any data center in Hall County would jeopardize that precious resource and harm the people, wildlife and environmental beauty of our special county. To exchange those benefits for monetary gain would be shameful and short-sighted and any belief that the population of Hall County would be happy to have lower taxes as a trade off for healthy, available water underestimates both the intellect and the morality of our citizenry.

With regard to detention centers, my request that this body renew its current moratorium remains rooted in a desire to see our community stay safe from abuse and overreach by a federal agency that presently makes communities more dangerous in

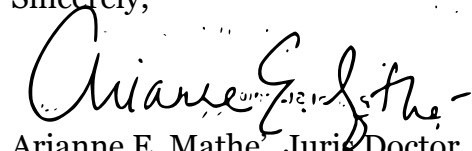
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terms of physical safety, environmental safety, emotional safety and constitutional safety. Our existing local law enforcement has sufficient facilities presently and means by which it can expand its existing resources if needed. Most unfortunately due to the City of Oakwood failing to stand behind the spirit of its resolution passed in March of this year, the city has not filed a lawsuit against DHS when it absolutely could have. As a result, we have not received definitive and specific confirmation that DHS will not move forward with a facility in Oakwood, so the prospect still exists. For this body to renew a long-term moratorium on such a facility within the county's jurisdiction would serve as a clear statement to those you represent that you will not stand idly by while outside agencies attempt to seize local resources like water and tax revenue or to act in ways we have seen all over the country to terrorize the local population through violence and conduct far outside the scope of their legal role.

With regard to amendments to the UDC, I will again reiterate the position I took in my previously submitted comments that this body should renew long-term moratoriums on both data centers and detention centers. However, either alongside or short of such action, this body should amend the UDC to include very strict language of regulation and restriction related to both of those types of developments and provide for the ongoing engagement of the public with regard to any further consideration of the establishment of either type of development in the future. This body should also consider implementing provisions in the UDC related to penalties, both criminal and civil, against any individual, business or agency involved in the establishment or attempted establishment of data or detention centers if their words or conduct is false, misleading or found to result in harmf to our environment or community.

Thank you for your attention to his matter. Should you wish to communicate directly, please feel free to contact me via phone at [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Arianne E. Mathe, Juris Doctor, Child Welfare Law Specialist