

STATE OF GEORGIA)

COLUMBIA COUNTY)

ORDER

CLERK OF SUPERIOR &
JUVENILE COURTS
FILED FOR RECORD

2021 JUL 29 PM 3:40

CINDY MASON CLERK
COLUMBIA COUNTY GEORGIA

WHEREAS, in 1790, legislation creating Columbia County, Georgia, made no mention of a county seat or a courthouse. It is believed that Cobbham, a long-dead town on the Columbia-McDuffie County line, briefly served as the county seat. Afterwards, the community of Kiokee (which Baptists had settled in 1772) served as the country seat for a brief period. Located near the Savannah River, Kiokee was too far east for most of the county's population, so William Appling offered the county land eight miles to the southwest for building a courthouse and jail. Appling had settled in this area in 1772 and a small community had grown up. County officials accepted Appling's offer and in 1792 or 1793, built a courthouse and jail on the site, which was named Appling or Applington. On November 29, 1794, the Georgia General Assembly enacted legislation designating the improved land lot as the official county seat for Columbia County (GA Laws 1794-95, p.14). On Dec. 12, 1816, legislation was enacted incorporating Appling as a village and setting its boundaries as a 600 x 600 yard square, with the courthouse in the middle (GA Laws 1816, p. 50). Since then, Appling has continued to serve as Columbia County's official county seat

with the courthouse being housed at 1959 Appling-Harlem Highway, Appling, Georgia 30801 and being known as the official courthouse of Columbia County, Georgia and the Superior Court is required by law to hold court there at least twice per year; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2002, the Columbia County Justice Center, designated as the Justice Center Courthouse Annex, also known as J.C. and located at 640 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, Georgia 30809, was opened and has operated as the Courthouse Annex since that time for the purpose of conducting the business of all courts of Columbia County, to include the Superior Court of Columbia County, Georgia and other court related activities, as required by law pursuant to O.C.G.A 15-618; and,

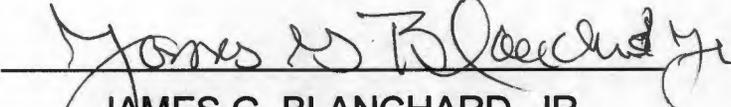
WHEREAS, by Act of the General Assembly, the Columbia Judicial Circuit was established on July 1, 2021, however, due to pending litigation, permission to operate was not granted by the Supreme Court until July 22, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-618, it was necessary to create a Columbia County Justice Center Annex, also known as JCA, at 7045 Evans Town Center Blvd., Evans, Georgia 30809, in what was formerly known as the Tax Slayer Building, for the purpose of housing the offices of

the District Attorney, the Public Defender's, Columbia County Juvenile Court and other offices as deemed necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Clerk of Superior Court of Columbia County, Georgia shall cause this Order to be officially recorded in the records of the Superior Court of Columbia County, Georgia, and published in the legal organ of Columbia County, Georgia, for four consecutive weeks to begin as soon as practical.

SO ORDERED, this 29th day of July, 2021.



JAMES G. BLANCHARD, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OF
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA