



**Chatham County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Abstract**

Item Number:
Meeting Date: 12/03/2007

Part A

Subject: Lease with Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA), Inc.
Action Requested: Approve the attached lease agreement, guaranteeing CORA space for five years
Attachments: 1. Lease agreement

Submitted By:

 Renee F. Paschal
 Assistant County Manager

 Date

County Manager Review:

 Charlie Horne, County Manager

 Date

This abstract requires review by:

- County Attorney** _____
Date Reviewed
- Finance Officer** _____
Date Reviewed
- Budget Officer** _____
Date Reviewed

Part B

Introduction & Background:

The County has provided CORA and several other non-profit agencies with free rental space in the Camp Street Building for a number of years. This building, which was in very poor condition, has been demolished as part of the expansion of Social Services.



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Discussion & Analysis:

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has agreed in principle to provide assistance to the non-profits displaced by the demolition of the Camp Street building. Last fiscal year, the Board of Commissioners approved funding to Chatham Together! for expenses associated with its move into office space on Salisbury Street. The Board also approved additional funds in FY 2008 to Chatham Together!, which, in part, will assist the agency with rent payments.

Prior to the demolition of the Camp Street Building, County staff worked with CORA to assist the agency in finding rental space. Nothing suitable was found. In the meantime, Caring Family Networks vacated the Chatham Counseling Center building. Because of its size and configuration, this building was determined to meet CORA's needs and offered to the agency as an interim measure to ensure it has adequate space in the near future. The proposed lease would guarantee CORA use of this space for five years. At the end of this term, the agency would be expected to find other space without assistance from the County.

Staff will present a similar lease agreement for Deep River Mediation when the renovations to the Social Services Building are complete.

Budgetary Impact:

Although the assistance provided to CORA will not require additional resources (\$12,000 has already been spent on modifications to the Mental Health Building), the county could use this building for another department, which might reduce rent or alleviate overcrowding.

Recommendation:

Motion to approve the lease agreement with CORA, as proposed.