



**BRANDSTETTER
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ARCHITECTS . ENGINEERS . PLANNERS

August 5, 2021

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Brundy Pursley
Piazza Stoneworks
3817 Martinez Blvd., Suite A
Augusta, GA 30907

Re: Nicholas County Judicial

Dear Pursley:

Per the request of Mr. Pursley, this letter is to outline our usage of the lightweight stone masonry units in the Nicholas County Judicial Center. The overall masonry installation is still in progress with the final pieces of the lightweight stone masonry being installed. Joint sealants are in progress around the perimeter of the cornice work.

For a brief overview, the building was designed with the lightweight stone masonry unit in mind allowing for several savings to the structural design. Due to the reduced weight and loading to the façade versus normal weight full cast stone, the Engineers were able to keep the spread footing sizes and tube steel wall thicknesses to a minimum. At the cornice level there was also no need for W beam outriggers, tube steel or steel angle bracing for the stone cornice. We were able to utilize pre-engineered light gage metal trusses with metal stud bridging as the structural backing of the lightweight masonry veneer. This set up also allowed the installation to be significantly reduced regarding manpower and equipment needed throughout the project. According to the Masonry Contractor instead of utilizing three to four men, a lull lift with operator and a sling system to lift the normal weight cast stone pieces were used. They were able to utilize two to three men with scaffolding, due to the pieces being in the couple hundred-pound range rather than three to four times that weight. This significantly reduced the installation cost side of things.

As far as the aesthetics of the lightweight stone masonry units versus the normal weight cast stone, we had no profile limitations during design based on the cornice looks we were trying to achieve for our project. Design Consultants were very willing to work with us to maintain the schematic look wanted.

Overall, the project has gone smoothly. The main point to note is the metal framing is crucial for this product. Maintaining a good structural stud wall assembly and allowing the metal Z framing direct connection made track and clip systems very efficient and straight forward.

We look forward to observing it over the lifespan of the building once the project is completed. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the experience we had and feedback I receive from the Contractors involved.

Sincerely,
Brandstetter Carroll Inc.


Josh Shuster

JS:meg