



Proposed Dodge County & City of Fremont Joint Law Enforcement Center Corner of 29th & Lincoln Avenue

This is part two of an eight-part series to provide information in regards to the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center. The entire series can be found on the City of Fremont's website: <http://www.fremontne.gov/826/Joint-Law-Enforcement-Center>

Both the Dodge County Supervisors and Fremont Mayor and City Council unanimously approved bond language that seeks Dodge County voters' approval of a new Joint Law Enforcement Center that will provide a one-stop shop for public safety needs in Dodge County and Fremont. The proposed new facility will house:

- Dodge County Sheriff's Department
- Fremont Police Department
- 911 Communications Center

Public Meetings are scheduled for:

September 22, 2020, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Christensen Field Meeting Room
1710 West 16th Street, Fremont

October 22, 2020, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Fremont City Auditorium Community Room
925 N Broad Street, Fremont

Talk Shop with a Cop:
September and October
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesdays at Hy-Vee
Wednesdays at Walmart
Thursdays at Baker's



WHY A NEW JOINT CENTER IS NEEDED

Although there are many reasons why Dodge County and Fremont are proposing to build a Joint Law Enforcement Center, three stand out. First, the current facilities lack basic requirements; second, a joint center will improve service; and third, tax savings to Dodge County and City of Fremont taxpayers. This informational piece will focus on the first two reasons. The third reason, savings and costs to Dodge County and City of Fremont taxpayers, will be focused on in an upcoming publication.

Current facilities lack basic requirements. The buildings where the Police and Sheriff are located were not designed for law enforcement. For example, a law enforcement building should have these basic features: K9 facilities (kennel), a locker room, space designed for evidence storage, adequate public and staff parking, training room, parking garage, adequate space for offices, interview rooms, and officer reporting area, etc. Neither building currently occupied by the Sheriff or Police have these basic requirements, because again, neither building was designed to be a law enforcement building.

The proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center is being designed specifically for law enforcement. It will have K9 facilities to house, clean and exercise K9 dogs. It will have a locker room so deputies and officers can get dressed for their shift as well as shower and change when they come into contact with vomit, blood, saliva, and other bodily fluids. It will have rooms built to store evidence. It will have plenty of parking for the public and the staff, and it will provide adequate training space. A parking garage is also planned so valuable law enforcement vehicles can be kept out of the weather, prolonging their useful life. And finally, the building will be large enough to handle both departments today as well as have room for growth.

Questions? Email us: publiccomments@fremontne.gov

Call us: Lt. Shane Wimer 402-727-2630, Deputy Brie Frank 402-727-2700

Improve law enforcement services. The proposed joint law enforcement center will enable citizens to benefit from one-stop law enforcement services. For example, many victims of crimes are unsure of what department they need to call. They call the Police only to be told they need to call the Sheriff's Department or they call the Sheriff when they need to talk with the Police. The same is true for gun permits, citizens are often confused as to which jurisdiction they should call. Many crimes are multijurisdictional, requiring resources (officers, deputies, and equipment) from both departments. Having resources kept in a joint center will not only provide better coordination between the departments, but it will also be more convenient for people reporting crimes and seeking permits.

Q: Why is a garage needed?

A: A law enforcement vehicle can cost upwards of \$40,000 by the time it is outfitted with the necessary equipment. By parking indoors, the life of the vehicle and equipment is extended, which translates into savings as it doesn't need to be maintained or replaced as often.

Q: Why is evidence storage needed?

A: Storing evidence and presenting it at trial is a fundamental operation of law enforcement agencies. In some cases, evidence is required to be stored for years, even decades. Both the Sheriff's Department and Police Department lack the space required for adequate evidence storage.

Q: Why is a locker room needed?

A: Currently, neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Fremont Police Department have locker rooms or showers. If a deputy or officer's uniform is soiled with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood, urine, feces, and/or saliva, they have no choice but to go home to shower and change. This leaves their homes exposed and vulnerable to these contaminants. Having a locker room and shower at the Joint Law Enforcement Center allows them to shower and change at the facility keeping their families and homes better protected.

Q: Will there be a jail added in the future?

A: Dodge County may consider building a jail onto the Sheriff's Department at the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center in the future. One of the reasons Dodge County purchased a one-half interest in the land at 29th and Lincoln Avenue with the City is because this site has enough room to add a jail in the future. The proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center will be designed so the Sheriff's Department could connect with a jail. This location and proposed center sets the foundation to allow for future growth and a potential jail.

Q: Who in government would benefit from a Joint Law Enforcement Center?

A: A Joint Law Enforcement Center will benefit those in law enforcement the greatest by having their basic needs met (secured parking, K9 facilities, locker rooms, space designed for evidence storage, training room, adequate space for offices, interview rooms, and officer reporting area, etc.).

Q: What are the major issues at the Fremont Police Department besides space?

A: The Fremont Police Department is housed in a 60-year-old building that was originally designed as offices for the Department of Utilities. The major components of the building are failing: roof, windows, HVAC system, electrical and plumbing. These items are replaceable but replacing these components still does not meet the needs of the Department and the building is still land-locked, leaving no room for future growth.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- <http://www.fremontne.gov/826/Joint-Law-Enforcement-Center>
- <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFremontNE>
- <https://www.facebook.com/DodgeCoNE>

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