



INDEPENDENCE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 07-19-2021

TO: Chief Brad Halsey, via Chain of Command

FROM: Major Paul Thurman

SUBJECT: Follow-up: "Detention Facility-Current upgrades & future needs"

"My question is how is the remodeling impacting our ability to detain people? Are we losing secure space during this period of time and if so how are we accommodating the loss of capacity? I would like to understand what the best long-term options are since remodeling the current facility is a temporary fix, similar to the remodels we did at dispatch before constructing the communications center. Remodeling detention does not solve some of the issues that are of greatest concern such as access via the back stairway and limited space." Mayor Weir

The current remodeling project is being realized in phases over the next several months due to ongoing Covid-19 protocols implemented throughout Independence and the State of Missouri. The reductions or elimination of all local and extraditable municipal arrests, significant restrictions of local and extraditable felony arrests, and shutdown of contracted detention facilities required modified statewide law enforcement response to calls for service. These modifications led to substantial reduction in overall arrests, detainee housing costs, and eventually creating an unexpected funding source for this project.

The phase approach to this remodel will have very little impact on the ability to serve detainees at the facility. Officers still have the ability to secure the same number of detainees in the "lobby" area with the same number of benches for detainees to await booking processes. However, the mandated arrest reductions have afforded the opportunity to update and remodel a facility that was designed under the data, laws, policies and procedures of the late 1960's early 1970's.

During the 1st and ongoing phase, only employees and some "repeat" detainees will notice any differences as the large holding cells have been removed and [REDACTED] has been relocated.

The old holding cells were initially removed due to re-purposing the "cage" material and [REDACTED] was relocated due to her office becoming the two (2) new smaller holding male/female areas after the metal fabrication is complete.

However, phase #1 does include the addition of three (3) new padded de-escalation cells, three (3) portable overflow beds, and seven (7) new bunk beds to replace old single cell beds in the cell block area. These additions will increase total housing by 13, decrease the ability for detainees to harm themselves (padded cells), maximize cell space and increase ability for temporary overflow bedding. None of these additions cause disruption to detainees or workflow as the new padded cells are being re-purposed from the two (2) de-commissioned juvenile and one (1) "drunk" tank. The bunkbeds are a replacement for the current single beds and will be installed at the same time as the removal of the current bed and will only be done one cell at a time.

Phase #1 also includes most of the "behind" the scene infrastructure work but will not be installed until all components are built and ready for install. Much of this work includes:

- Fabrication of steel booking wall
- Building modular booking desks
- Building countertop cabinets
- Purchase of mobile restraint chair
- Purchase of flooring
- Purchase of drywall
- Purchase of improved LED lighting
- Scheduling of camera move and install
- Schedule of computer move and install

As mentioned earlier, the facility was designed approximately 50 years ago, presumably, utilizing modern architecture standards engineered by law, other detention designs, arrest numbers, detainee capacities, and number of employees. To this end, it would be difficult to find any building, let alone a detention facility, that is approximately 50 years old and in a land locked location that can fulfill modern detention concepts.

In my opinion the short answer to some of your questions, is resoundly; yes. A new building is the only way the city will be able to provide a completely modern and futuristic facility that incorporates safer, and efficient architecture designs.

I believe, the items referenced in the "Current Remodel project" and "Feasible future Improvement (not funded)" memo, dated 07-08-2021, will increase the lifespan of the facility until such time that a funding source is identified for a new previously discussed "Law Enforcement" campus. The above mentioned improvements do not expel some safety concerns, like immediate release of detainees, walking detainees through stairwells and a more efficient "pod system." However, these are talking points are known, discussed, heavily monitored and scrutinized to ensure safety protocols are followed.

Ultimately, this first and only noteworthy remodel after approximately 50 years will provide a significantly safer and more efficient environment for employees and detainees with minimal disruption to daily operations. All other improvements will require a new facility or major infrastructure changes to either Noland Road, Truman Road, police vehicle parking lot and/ or current police building.

