



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

This is the first of an eight-part series to provide information in regards to the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center. This first publication will focus on the history of the Police and Sheriff's Departments.

The Dodge County Supervisors and the Fremont Mayor and City Council are asking Dodge County voters to approve 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



HISTORY OF THE SHERIFF & POLICE DEPARTMENTS

After years at the corner of 6th and Broad Streets, the Fremont Police Department moved to their current location at Military Street and Park Avenue in 1997. This building was built in 1966, for the City Utility Department. Although the building was never intended to be a police station, the Chief has been able to make do; however, with 39 full-time police officers, the Police have outgrown the space.

The Sheriff's Department was previously located on the fourth floor of the Dodge County Courthouse along with the Dodge County Jail. When the new jail was built on the corner of 4th and Broad Streets in 1986, the first floor was left vacant, allowing for future expansion of the jail. Out of room on the fourth floor of the courthouse, the Sheriff's Department moved into the vacant first-floor space in 1991.

In 2011, Dodge County inmates were sent to Saunders County in an effort to save taxpayer money as it was determined to be more cost effective. Instead of a permanent facility, the Dodge County Jail is used as a temporary holding facility.

Like the City's Police Department, the Sheriff's Department does not occupy a building designed for law enforcement; it was designed to be a jail. Also, with the growth in Dodge County, the Sheriff's Department has outgrown their space and have no room to expand. (continued on second page)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

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

Questions? Email us: publiccomments@fremontne.gov

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

With both Departments in the same situation, conversations about a partnership for a Joint Law Enforcement Center were formalized in 2011 when a resolution was passed by both the City and the County to move towards a joint law enforcement center.

The original intent of the 2011 resolution was for both agencies to be located at the Fremont Police Department's location of 725 N Park Avenue along with the 911 Communication Center. In order to accomplish this, the City contracted Prochaska and Associates in 2014, to conduct a needs assessment of the existing building. The report concluded that while the building's "bones" were in good shape, the rest of the building needed an "extreme makeover." In 2018, Prochaska was commissioned to look at a new joint law enforcement center at a new location. The report concluded that a joint center offered cost reductions in common spaces, like public and staff parking, vehicle garage, and sallyport, as well as flexibility for future growth (including a jail).

Both reports can be found on the City of Fremont's website.

In late 2018, the City and Dodge County entered into an inter-local agreement to plan a Joint Law Enforcement Center and Dodge County purchased an undivided one-half interest in property owned by the City in the vicinity of 29th Street and Lincoln Avenue. Police Facility Design Group was hired in 2020 as the architect and engineer to design a new proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center at this site. In August 2020, the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and the Fremont Mayor and City Council unanimously approved the ballot language asking voters if bonds should be issued for the new center.



Dodge County Sheriff's Department



Fremont Police Department

Q: Why not include a jail at the new site?

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

Q: What do we get for \$18 million?

A: A joint law enforcement center that will house both the Sheriff's Department as well as the City Police Department. The Sheriff's share of the cost is almost \$8 million and the City's share is slightly more than \$10 million.

Q: Where do I go for these services: title inspections, gun permit, license my vehicle, etc.?

A: Title inspections are done at the Sheriff's Department, so it would move to the new Joint Law Enforcement Center. Gun permits are obtained at either the Sheriff or Police Department, depending if you are a County or City resident; both would be located in a new Joint Law Enforcement Center.

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