



## Proposed Dodge County & City of Fremont Joint Law Enforcement Center Corner of 29<sup>th</sup> Street & Lincoln Avenue

This is part four 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

**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



### ADDITIONAL LINKS

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

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center will be built at the corner of 29th Street and Lincoln Avenue on a 12-acre parcel of land owned by Dodge County and the City of Fremont. Here are the four primary reasons why this location was chosen:

- 1) This location is the lowest cost option. The cost of enlarging the Sheriff's Office, attached to the Courthouse, as well as enlarging the Police Department's building, on the corner of Park and Military Avenues, would be more expensive than building a new, joint building. A 2018 study stated a new joint law enforcement center would cost less because of reductions in common spaces, like public and staff parking, vehicle garage, locker rooms, and sallyport. So rather than throwing more money into the current buildings, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council voted to build a new joint center because it is a better long-term value for taxpayers.
- 2) This location has room to grow. Today, the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and 911 Center are shoehorned into old buildings. They are bursting at the seams and it is impacting their ability to effectively serve the public. And worse yet, even if their buildings were remodeled, neither building has room to grow. The new location has adequate evidence storage, room for K-9 dogs, and room to add more officers as Dodge County and Fremont grow. And best of all, it has room to add a jail if the County Supervisors decide to discontinue incarcerating prisoners in Saunders County.
- 3) This location is already owned by Dodge County and the City of Fremont. The partnership between the

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County and the City first began in 2011 when a joint resolution was approved to combine the 911 Communication Center. It also put in motion an intent to move forward with locating law personnel in a joint center. Then, in 2018, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council approved an inter-local agreement to jointly own 12 acres of land at the corner of 29th Street and Lincoln Avenue for a joint law enforcement center. This site is shovel-ready (utilities are in place) and is NOT in the floodplain.

4) This location is good for law enforcement, as well as for a jail. A law enforcement center does NOT have to be centrally located. In fact, neither building is centrally located now. What is required is easy access and this site has easy access to arterial streets for City Officers and has easy access to get out of town for County Deputies. Here is what Sheriff Hespen and Chief Elliott have to say about the location: “We do NOT have to be located in the center of the County nor the City. Deputies and officers do NOT wait at the station before responding to calls. They respond from the field because they spend most of their shift on patrol in the County and City.” But what about a jail? Should the County vote to build one at this site? Sheriff Hespen said, “It would be advantageous for the jail to be located next to the Joint Law Enforcement Center, because that is the safest, as well as the most economical place for it to be. A jail does NOT have to be located next to the Courthouse, in fact most new jails are NOT located near a courthouse. “

Location has a lot to do with the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center, which is why the Dodge County Supervisors and Fremont Mayor and City Council approved this location.

**Q:** Don't jails need to be connected to courthouses?

**A:** While it may seem convenient to have a full-time jail connected to the courthouse, it is not a requirement and is common throughout Nebraska and other states. Scottsbluff County, Platte County and Saline County are just a few of the departments that have jails and holding facilities that are not connected to a courthouse. The existing Dodge County Jail located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Broad Streets will remain as a 24-hour holding facility at this time.

**Q:** Is building on the edge of town a smart option?

**A:** Building on the edge of town has many advantages, including affordable land with adequate space, the ability to construct a new facility that meets the current and future needs rather than 'making-do' and renovating smaller, existing parcels and having to relocate down the road.

**Q:** Is it common for Police Departments and Sheriff's Departments to have joint facilities?

**A:** Yes, more and more communities are pairing up to reap the benefits of joint law enforcement centers including: Kearney, NE Police and Buffalo County Sheriff's Departments; South Sioux City, NE Police and Dakota County Sheriff's Departments; Plattsmouth, NE Police and Cass County Sheriff's Departments; Steamboat Springs, CO Police Department and Routt County, CO Sheriff's Department; and City of Moorhead, MN Police Department and Clay County, MN Sheriff's Department.

#### **Where you can get more information:**

**Talk Shop with a Cop:** October 4, 2020, 8 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Dodge Fire Hall Pancake Feed  
233 North Oak Street, Dodge

**Talk Shop with a Cop:** October 11, 2020, 8 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Fremont Rural Fire Dept. Pancake Feed  
110 Boulevard Street, Fremont

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

\*Additional dates and times will be published as they become available.

**Q:** Is the shooting range going to be a part of this project?

**A:** No, the shooting range is not part of the project, for two reasons. First, the Police and Sheriff's Departments are exploring an outdoor shooting range (not an indoor range) where rifles and shotguns can be used. Second, this location is too close to the city for an outdoor shooting range.

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\*Disclaimer: This is not an endorsement nor a solicitation for a Joint Law Enforcement Center. This is being provided for educational purposes only.