



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

This is part three 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



Q: Why must Fremont voters consider two ballot questions?

A: Fremont voters will vote on a County and a City ballot question, because they live both in the County and in the City. Voters outside Fremont, will only vote on the County ballot question.

WHY BUILD A NEW FACILITY NOW?

The needs of law enforcement have never been greater and the job of a cop has never been more difficult. The proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center is designed to provide our law enforcement with tools they need to meet these challenges. Public safety depends upon putting the best-equipped and best-trained officers and deputies on the job. A new joint-use facility can help us do that.

A new joint-use center will also meet the needs of Dodge County residents and businesses for many, many years, something the current facilities cannot do. Further, when the next generation of officers are called upon to defend and protect our children and grandchildren, the proposed joint law enforcement center has the capacity to support their needs as well as plenty of room to expand.

In law enforcement, there are two primary factors that drive the need for a facility. The condition of the current building and inadequate space for people to perform their job. Both of these conditions apply to the current Police Department building, and inadequate space applies to the Sheriff Department's building. Both buildings could be renovated, if enough money was thrown into them; however, both remain landlocked, and neither has adequate parking or room for growth.

Another reason to build a Joint Law Enforcement Center now, rather than renovating the two existing buildings, is that a joint-use building will result in a savings of over 10,000 square feet of space. Instead of the 53,316 square feet that would be required to meet law enforcement's needs in two separate buildings, the proposed joint center requires only 42,980 square feet of space. Building a new joint-use law enforcement

Questions? Email us: publiccomments@fremontne.gov

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

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

center represents the most cost-effective way to meet these vital public safety needs.

As was stated earlier, the needs of law enforcement have never been greater. That is why the proposed joint center has dedicated 10 percent of the space in the building for training. For example, there are rooms specifically designed for defensive tactics and scenario simulation, as well as space for basic training like community policing, avoiding uses-of-force, and diversity training. Training not only improves every encounter an officer and deputy has with a citizen, but it also improves the officer and the department's effectiveness.

The cost of a new joint-use facility will never be less. Typically, construction costs increase by 3 to 5 percent per year, so waiting will only cost more. Many contractors have said that the spring of 2021 should be a good time to go out for construction bids because construction is slowing down and contractors will be looking for work for 2021. Also, at today's historic low interest rates on bonds (2 percent or lower), the best time for getting low priced bonds locked in is now.

A couple of the best tools we have to recruit an officer or deputy to come to work here or keep them here is a modern building and community support. Many officers and deputies believe that community support for law enforcement is reflected in the building they work in. The more modern the building, the more they want to come or stay working for us. A modern building is also good for employee morale.

All of these reasons are why a new joint-use facility is important to law enforcement and why now is a good time to build a new facility. The new joint-use center will give our law enforcement professionals better tools to defend and protect us.

Where you can get more information:

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

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: Dodge County just increased my property valuation by over \$20,000. Will the Joint Enforcement Center cause my valuation to go even higher?

A: No, the Joint Law Enforcement Center will not affect how the County determines property valuations. According to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, real property valuations are determined according to professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques, including but not limited to the following: (1) comparing sales of properties with known or recognized values, considering location, zoning, and current functional use (also known as the sales comparison approach); (2) the income approach; and (3) the cost approach. All real property is assessed at or near 100% of actual value.

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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