



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

This is part six 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>

### **BROWN AND BLUE – WORKING TOGETHER**

Despite the color of their uniform (the Sheriff's Department wears a brown uniform and the City Police Department wears a blue uniform) law enforcement is all about protecting the public. This is one of the reasons that the Dodge County Supervisors and the Fremont Mayor and City Council started talks about a new joint law enforcement center over a decade ago.



L to R: Dodge County Sheriff, Steve Hesper; 911 Communications Director, Shelly Holzerland; and Fremont Police Chief, Jeff Elliott

They are not the only ones to start talks as more and more law enforcement departments are pairing up to reap the benefits of a joint law enforcement center. In Nebraska, there are several law enforcement departments that have teamed up including: the Kearney Police and the Buffalo County Sheriff; the South Sioux City Police and the Dakota County Sheriff; and the Plattsmouth Police and the Cass County Sheriff. Other counties and cities our size in other states include: Steamboat Springs Police Department and Routt County Sheriff's Department in Colorado and the City of Moorhead Police Department and Clay County Sheriff's Department in Minnesota; and there are many more.

The joint partnership between Dodge County and the City of Fremont began in 2011 when the County Supervisors and the Fremont Mayor and City Council signed an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a joint 911 Communications Center. Then in 2018, an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement was signed by the County and the City to work towards a joint law enforcement center for the benefit of public safety. These early discussions and signed agreements have laid the groundwork for how the men and women in the brown and blue uniforms can work together for taxpayers.

### **CRIME KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES**

Because crime knows no boundaries, brown and blue work side by side to lower crime and protect the public. In fact, since 2016, when Dodge, Cuming, and Saunders Counties and the cities of Fremont, Blair, Wahoo, and Yutan signed an Interlocal

**Questions?** Email us: [publiccomments@fremontne.gov](mailto: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.

Cooperation Agreement to form III Corps, brown and blue have worked together to apprehend and prosecute drug dealers. These organizations knew then that collaboration between law enforcement agencies opens lines of communications, lowers crime, and provides better protection to the public. In addition, working side by side allows for better and more accurate information shared between departments. Especially in today's high-tech world, having access to information, not only reduces misunderstandings and miscommunications, but it improves services and public safety.

### KEEP THE PEACE – BACK THE BADGE

When we work together as a community to keep the peace, we keep our citizens safe. Similarly, when we have a collective understanding of what we are seeing in our communities, we have a better picture of the threats that faces us. The proposed joint law enforcement center is an example of the community coming together to keep the peace as well as brown and blue working together to discuss and address the things threatening our communities. But most important, a joint law enforcement center represents the citizens commitment and support for our law enforcement agencies.



**Talk Shop with a Cop: Every week in October from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at:**

Tuesdays at Hy-Vee  
Wednesdays at Menards  
Thursdays at Hy-Vee

### Other Public Events:

October 15, 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
North Bend Fire Hall  
140 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, North Bend

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

### Questions and Answers:

**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.

**Q:** If the City and the County would consider bond issues to remodel or build separate law enforcement buildings, would Fremont voters still be asked to vote on two ballot questions?

**A:** Yes, constructing two separate facilities doesn't change the fact that Fremont voters live in both the County and the City, so they would be required to vote on bond issues for a new County building and a new City building.

**Q:** Why build a new facility? Can the existing Police Department building be renovated?

**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 remains land-locked, leaving no room for future growth.

**Q:** How much general obligation bond debt do other similarly-sized cities in Nebraska have?

**A:** Here are the populations and bond debt from other Nebraska cities: Columbus – 23,468 - \$18,655,000; North Platte – 23,659 - \$19,870,000; Norfolk – 24,449 - \$14,168,543; Hastings – 24,692 - \$3,845,000; Fremont – 26,383 - \$1,880,000; and Kearney – 33,867 - \$31,085,000.

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