

12/10/14 Courthouse Security Meeting

Don't start with a Conclusion

Question the Underlying Assumptions

Goals – We need to know what we are trying to accomplish

- Protect Judges
- Protect Prosecutors
- Protect Victims
- Protect the General Public
- Protect the Building
- Secure the Parking Lot

What are we trying to protect against?

- Guns
- Bombs
- Death
- Assault
- Assault with Weapon
- Suicide
- Sexual Assault

What are we “allowing” in choosing to build a Welcome Center instead of putting money in other alternatives?

- Adding Security at the entrance instead of adding deputies away from the entrance
- Securing and consolidating counters and offices instead of relying on a single checkpoint
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Total Cost of All Projects

- Purchase Parking Lot
 - o How much?
- Resurface Parking Lot
 - o How much?
- Remodeling Courthouse
 - o How much?
- Moving departments
 - o How much?
- Building welcome center
 - o \$5,000,000
 - How big is it going to be?
 - $50 \times 50 = \$2,000/\text{Sq Ft}$
- Purchasing security equipment
 - o \$31,500
- Cost of additional staff
 - o \$208,184 per year

Total Cost Comparison to Alternatives

- If we are looking at \$6-8 million to accomplish the current goal, what would it cost to build a new courthouse attached to the sheriff's office when we account for efficiencies created by doing so.
 - o 90 Million (\$1,200 sf) 60 Million (\$800 sf) or 50 Million (\$665 sf) or 15 Million (\$197 sf)?
 - These are really big differences
 - Green Lake was around \$237 which might have included land
 - o What about separating criminal and civil courts?
 - Criminal attached to WSCO
 - Civil in current courthouse
 - Is it feasible?
 - What would the upfront cost be?
 - How would it compare to total refit project?
 - What would the cost savings be annually?
 - What expansion would it allow for?
 - What is our 5 year projection and plan?
 - What is our 10 year projection and plan?
 - o Eliminate some prisoner transport costs
 - \$300,000 per year
 - o Eliminate multiple "windows" for each office that have to be staffed
 - How much labor per year saved?
 - o Create safe work spaces to prevent some of the incidents that can't be prevented by a security checkpoint
 - Security designed in to the facility
 - o Allow for onsite storage instead of running for files
 - o Implement technological solutions that could create efficiencies and save money
 - Very limited or very costly in current facility
 - o Savings based on efficiencies of the building itself
 - HVAC, Repairs, upkeep etc.
 - o Future savings on parking needs near current courthouse, expansion of additional courts etc.
 - Will this be \$8 million dollars today and \$18 Million in 8 years only to have a dilapidated building with \$26 million in upgrades?
- Other security options not being considered in a meaningful way
 - o Security doors to court offices
 - o Locking courtrooms when not in use
 - o Centralizing calendaring or coordinating calendars to minimize times when security is spread thin
 - Taking OWI offenders into custody per statute
 - Bond reviews resulting in custody
 - Sentences resulting in custody
 - Contempt findings resulting in custody

- Etc.
- By more efficiently calendaring, could we reduce transport officer needs and free up time for courthouse security?
 - Could we have transport officers in some courts and courthouse security officers in other courts and the same time to maximize efficiency?
- Security glass at counters in various offices
- Opening doors to various offices that are not locked or glass doors
 - Quick visual check
 - Like cutting low tree branches
 - Greater likelihood of incident being noticed from corridors

Have we settled on a goal prematurely?

- There were 485 security requests in 2013 per WCSO report
 - How many would go away if there was a security checkpoint?
 - How many would be best addressed through other means?
 - Additional officers
 - Officers in different areas
 - Calendaring
 - How many were “courthouse violence” vs court business?
 - After spending however much money a welcome center will cost, what type of reduction will we see from the 485 incidents?
- CJES Study
 - 2005-2011 Incidents of courthouse violence
 - 238 Total incidents reported
 - 66 by Prisoners already in custody
 - 27.73%
 - 63 by persons already in courthouse and no weapons used
 - 26.47%
 - 28 were incidents a security checkpoint could have stopped
 - 19 Guns
 - 8 Knives
 - 1 Stun gun
 - **1 Murder** (stabbing)
 - **11.76%**
 - 24 by individuals being taken into custody
 - 10.08%
 - 22 were incidents generally affecting courts but not happening in the courthouse per se
 - Conspiracies, etc.
 - 9.24%
 - 21 Occurred in parking lots
 - Including bombs
 - Stabbings
 - Shooting

- **2 murders**
 - Attack on jurors
 - 8.82%
- 9 Attacks on Prosecutors would not have been prevented by checkpoint
- 4 attacks on judges would not have been prevented by a security checkpoint
- 14 suicides/attempts would not have been stopped
- Most attacks on victims, defendants, defense attorneys, etc would not have been stopped by a security checkpoint.
- **28** Weapons were or could have been stopped by a security checkpoint
- 1 firearm brought in by circumventing the security checkpoint (like a fire alarm would do)
- 1 incident was co-facilitated by an employee who had access internally
- Don't forget this is a national study, not local.

Could we save enough money by calendaring together and allowing better resource management for the sheriff to allow for more courthouse security personnel with no increased costs?

How many deputies will we have in the courthouse and how many deputies will we have patrolling the rest of the county?

Would we be better off having those 2 security checkpoint deputies walking the parking lot and the courthouse?

- Which scenario would address more situations?

If workplace violence is more prevalent than courthouse violence and we are considering a liability issue, shouldn't we build welcome centers on all county facilities?

Law review article about school shootings. Schools are still the safest place for kids to be. Little prisons aren't conducive to learning

My Suggestion?

- I would put together a new group to look at the issue with no preconceived notions and work backwards from a real threat assessment (not potential) to possible solutions to those threats.
- I would also get some actual accountings/estimates
 - Can't best decide on a course of action without all of the data
 - It is the interaction that has to be accounted for. People, buildings, ongoing costs, etc.