

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

Date: May 13, 2013

To: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Gary Waszak, Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services

**Subject: Courthouse Complex and Vel Phillip's Juvenile Justice Center Security Report For Information Only**

**ISSUE**

The Department of Administrative Services, Facilities Management Division (DAS-FM) has taken several measures to increase security at the Courthouse Complex and Vel Phillip's Juvenile Justice Center security screening stations. These measures are a result of concerns raised by the Sheriff's Department and ongoing internal review within DAS-FM.

**BACKGROUND**

Don Tyler, Director of Administrative Services, reached out to the Sheriff's Department mid-February 2013 with the intent to create a Security Work Group and draw on the Sheriff's Department as a resource in Security procedures to review current screening practices. Deputy Inspector Tobie Weberg was selected by the Sheriff's Office to be part of this Security Work Group.

Subsequently, on March 6, 2013, a press release by the Sheriff's Department identified a series of security check point failures during an "integrity check" conducted by the Sheriff. This report suggested that a weapon was allowed to pass through multiple screening stations without detection.

The Department of Administrative Services-Facilities Management instituted the following weapons screening station changes on March 7, 2013:

- Efforts were increased to minimize magnetometer and hand wand alarms by having clients remove objects containing metal known to cause alarm signals such as shoes, belts, wallets, wrist watches and other similar objects. This allowed the Security Officers to focus on and identify any unknown alarms.
- All magnetometer and hand held alarms were identified and cleared by the Security Officer by screening and rescreening as many times as was necessary without the client directing the assessment.
- Additionally, Security staff provided heightened supervision and monitoring of individual staff, additional review of procedures and techniques and ensured that minimum staff levels were maintained at all times.

On March 13, 2013 the first Security Work Group meeting occurred and consisted of representatives from the Department of Administrative Services-Facilities Management, Risk Management, Corporation Counsel, District Attorney and the Sheriff's Department.

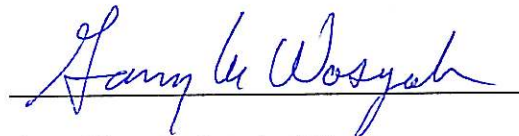
On April 19, 2013 the Department of Administrative Services-Facilities Management initiated a policy that required all individuals who use an Identification Card to bypass the screening station to present their ID to a Security Officer for visual verification. This policy was a result of internal Department of Administrative Services-Facilities Management discussions and the recognized need for better visual inspection of identification cards.

On April 22, 2013 a second Security Work Group meeting occurred. As a result of this meeting, the following actions were taken:

- All screening stations will have "PLEASE WAIT HERE" signs installed to provide a buffer zone between clients waiting to be screened and the screening station and staff. This will provide a separation to assist staff in feeling less pressured to hurry in the screening process as well as offer a physical separation for added security.
- The Security Work Group meetings will occur on a regular basis to discuss important immediate issues as well as review Security on a larger and long-term level.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation at this time. This report is informational only.



Gary Waszak, Interim Director  
Facilities Management Division  
Department of Administrative Services

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairman, TPW Committee  
Don Tyler, Director, Department of Administrative Services