

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: August 11, 2023
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Stuart Carron, Director, Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services
SUBJECT: A report from Facilities Management providing information on Courthouse complex security
File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

This report provides information on the background, status and plans for improvements to the physical security of the County Courthouse complex.

POLICY

NA

BACKGROUND

In 2021, Facilities Management partnered with the Sheriff's office to conduct a security review of the Courthouse Complex and Coggs building. The county contracted with Allied Risk Assessment Consulting Services (RACS) to complete this review, who also engaged representatives from the State Courts, DAS-Risk Management, IMSD, Department of Human Resources and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

The objective of the assessment was to identify existing vulnerabilities and provide recommendations to assist in the standardization of security protocols, technologies, and operations across the County Courthouse Complex facilities that would meet security industry best practices and provide a minimum standard for each facility to meet.

The consultant's report was received in late 2021. It identified key risks and vulnerabilities around the perimeter and interior common spaces of the Courthouse complex and made a series of recommendations for improvements to policies, procedures and technologies used to address physical security of these facilities and their occupants.

One of the key risks in the consultant's report is the lack of a coordinated approach to security at the Courthouse. Systems and procedures are currently operated by multiple departments with incomplete coordination. The report also highlighted controls around employee entrances, key and badge controls, policies/procedures/training, and surveillance/intrusion/access controls technologies as areas for potential improvement.

CURRENT STATUS

Since receipt of the report, Facilities Management has undertaken steps to address the identified gaps.

1. Since one of the key risks in the consultant's report is the lack of a coordinated approach to security at the Courthouse, we have added a Security Director to our staff to enhance internal expertise and provide single point of responsibility and coordination for security policies and systems.
2. A multi-department work group was established in 2022 and continues to focus on ways to increase security at our facility entryways.
3. A \$3.2M project to upgrade security systems in alignment with the consultant's recommendations was approved by the ARPA Task Force and funded by the Board under the ARPA program. Initial planning and design are in progress.

Policies and systems to upgrade security at the Courthouse complex will be developed inclusive of the multiple stakeholders for each and rolled out on an incremental and progressive schedule going forward.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This overall program and project intend to Bridge the Gap, by breaking down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered. Increasing the perceived and real safety of all operations within the Courthouse Complex will improve the quality of the experience and services of all workers and visitors in these facilities. The overall intent is to create a safer environment for Milwaukee County employees, visitors and County building tenants.

FISCAL EFFECT

Not applicable. As noted, funding has already been allocated for the project.

TERMS

Not applicable.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Stuart Carron stuart.carron@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Dustin Schrader dustin.schrader@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Tim Christian timothy.christian@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY

Stuart Carron, Director, Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services

APPROVED BY

Aaron Hertzberg

Aaron Hertzberg, Director
Department of Administrative Services