

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Vote begins design process **for a proposed, new Sheriff's Office Communications Center**

November 16, 2010 – The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office will soon begin working with the County to develop plans for building a new Sheriff's Office Communications Facility in Plymouth. The proposed facility would include a 911 dispatch center.

Today, the Hennepin County Board voted in favor of Hennepin County Administration and Hennepin County Property Services to begin the schematic design process for building a new facility. The vote is a significant first step toward getting final approval for the Sheriff's Office project.

"I would like to thank the board members for ensuring that the Sheriff's Office has the infrastructure needed to meet the future demands for 911 dispatching --which is a critical public safety service," said Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek.

The schematic design process approved today would provide building options and cost estimates for a new facility. It is proposed to be located on county-owned land in Plymouth, near the Hennepin County Adult Corrections Facility. (It is also known as the workhouse.) Today's vote on the design process does not require any additional funding through 2011 because of a prior appropriation. Construction of a new facility would not begin until several additional steps in the process are complete – including final approval from the county board.

"When a resident or a businesses owner picks up that telephone and asks for help from 911, our dispatching system must be efficient and reliable so that emergency services arrive without delay," says Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison, "It is our obligation as a county to provide this public safety service and to keep pace with future service demands."

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office operates one of the largest consolidated public safety answering points (PSAPs) in the Upper Midwest. The Sheriff's Office dispatches for 19 fire departments and 23 police agencies in 36 communities. The existing facility has been located in Golden Valley for 62 years. While the dispatch center continues to provide outstanding services to residents and businesses throughout the county, the Sheriff's Office has cautioned that the facility is quickly nearing its capacity for dispatching services. A recent study by a leading national consultant also concluded that a new facility is needed.

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