

SECURITY ORDINANCE UPDATE

To: Jackson County Commissioners

From: County Attorney, Heather Baker

Date: March 5, 2018

Re: Annual report to the County Commissioners

The Ordinance Governing Jackson County Justice Center Security calls for an annual update on the Ordinance from the Security Committee to the Jackson County Commissioners. The Committee is comprised of the Chief District Court Judge, the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, District Attorney, Sheriff of Jackson County, Clerk of Superior Court, County Manager and Local Bar President or their designee.

The Committee met on February 26, 2018 to review the Security process and to review the roster of attorneys and non-attorneys with ID access cards to make sure that the County is aware of any change in status that would require revocation of the ID access card.

Jackson County Human Resource Director, Danielle Wittekind, presented to the committee the current roster and shared her process for updating the status of County employees, attorneys and non-attorneys with ID access cards. The Committee was impressed with the records and spread sheets kept by Ms. Wittekind and the detail given to maintain the database. Major Shannon Queen with the JCSO works with Ms. Wittekind on a regular basis to update the list and keep it current. The Committee read over the roster and provided updated information.

The Committee discussed updates on items from last year's report as well as discussing new security concerns of the Committee. The following items were discussed but no change to the Ordinance was requested. The current security needs discussed are as follows:

1. The Committee heard updates on the possibility of Video Arraignment taking place in one of the two unused rooms in the secure area behind the Judge's Chambers and near the court holding cell. The Committee discussed that this would allow inmates to remain at the jail while having their 48 and 96 hour hearings which would increase safety as it would reduce the number of inmates transported during court days and would improve the speed and efficiency of the process. In addition to the software and hardware needs to make this work, a television or monitor would be needed for the room.
2. The Committee discussed the need for increased cameras, staffing and monitoring for security purposes.
3. The upcoming courthouse renovation was discussed and the Committee agreed that the renovation would take care of many of the security needs that the group discussed. It was emphasized that planning for the renovation should make sure that

any system used in the newly renovated areas would work with the existing security systems and jail systems currently in place.

The items from last year discussed and updates provided are as follows:

1. Last year there was discussion about attorneys requesting access in the back hallway area (excluding the Judges Chambers) to allow easier back and forth during court days to see clients in jail. Now that attorneys and others have adjusted to the new system, there have not been requests for this access.
2. Additional lighting outside the front of the building and the addition of two cameras. These needs have been met.
3. Small lockers in the atrium to temporarily keep items not allowed in the Justice Center so citizens do not have to return to their car. Public Works and the Sheriff's Office will discuss a small locker system to be placed immediately behind security.

Overall the Committee thought the security process was running smoothly and there were no additional changes that needed to be addressed at this time.