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Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Ted Wheeler

FROM: Sheriff Bernie Giusto 

DATE: January 12, 2007

RE: Information for January 23rd Board Briefing on the East County Justice Center

Chief Deputy Tim Moore has provided a memo which I believe fully explains the efficiencies in operations or prevented increased operational costs in co-locating MCSO Hansen Building functions with the Courts and Gresham Police in East County, thereby creating an East County Justice Center.

The East County Justice Center is in the best interest of our taxpayers, the customers of the facility, the County's bottom line, and those that we protect and serve. It makes financial sense, it makes policy sense, it makes operational sense and it builds the platform needed to evolve policing in East County. Policing by nature is a partnership of mutual aid, support and collaboration. It is by nature an ongoing discussion of roles, responsibilities, service levels of an agency, and total services available through cooperation to citizens.

The East County Justice Center allows for us to plan and in some ways will force these collaborative partnerships to ask new questions. Important discussions will come from designing the space for MCSO and Gresham to share simple things like shared locker rooms, shared roll call rooms, shared parking and a shared reception area. Actually sharing that space will aid the agencies in coordinating and creating a policing model that has never yet been possible. Can those functions be shared? If not why not? Can we coordinate how we scheduled patrol shifts to align coverage better and mutual aid more effectively? Can we co-locate fleet storage at Yeon? Can we combine property and evidence functions at Yeon or another facility? If not, why not? Why would we continue to use two different records systems? Plus as we learned when Gresham and MCSO Detectives were housed together, can we talk about and share information about offenders that victimize residents of both geographic areas? Can we close more cases? Can we leverage each other's resources and capacities to improve the services to East County residents?

Co-location will bring cooperation and planning to a new level. Moving towards answering the questions above are only possible in a co-located facility. The saying "out of site, out of mind" applies greatly to this situation. Not only would MCSO experience increase long term operational costs by not being in the Justice Center it would also prevent cooperation and developing different models of service delivery. Considering the one time only construction cost amortized over a 40 year lifespan of 1.6 cents per square foot per day, it is difficult to imagine a more cost effective use of county resources. The Justice Center facilitates MCSO's ability to define its role and vision as a policing agency. As we face ongoing questions about decreased resources we have to ask about how we partner with one another, what should each agency be doing, and how can we best support each other to provide policing services to our residents and visitors.