

Tour of Police Headquarters

March 13, 2020

In attendance:

Legislator Steve Flotteron

Frank Mathews – Information Technology Project Coordinator

Lance Reinheimer-Director of Budget Review

Commissioner Geraldine Hart

Chief Gerard McCarthy

Deputy Commissioner Robert Skopek

Lieutenant Robert Scharf

Deputy Chief Robert Waring

DPW Architect Gerald Anderus

Also on the tour:

Detective John Kellman –Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section

George Michels – Suffolk County Detectives Association, Secy./Treasurer-Legislative Committee

Scott DiFiore- Assistant Architect, Department of Public Works

Detective Sargent James Roddin- Suffolk County Police Superior Officers Association, 2nd Vice President

Robert Doering- Budget Review Office, Senior Legislative Analyst

Lou Tutone- Police Benevolent Association

- Started at 1:10pm
- February 28 Minutes approved (Motion by Chief McCarthy, Second by Hart)
- Chief McCarthy then directed the group on a tour of the building. The notes on what were discussed are as follows

1. General Building Needs

- a. Renovate 20 bathrooms throughout building. 2 already done.
- b. Lobby is due to be upgraded for safety improvements.
- c. Windows need replacement throughout building due to weather intrusion - potentially ballistic glass windows

2. Internal Affairs Bureau

- a. 2325 sq ft of space in entire office
- b. Approximately 26 people work there
- c. File cabinets fill the room and space is extremely limited
- d. There is cramped accessibility throughout the office

3. Medical Evaluation Bureau

- a. Unable to staff 2 doctors at the same time
- b. Only has 1 exam room - needs 2
- c. All files are kept in paper form due to cost of digital storage
- d. Room is not handicap accessible-Not ADA Compliant

4. 911 Center

- a. Looking to eventually upgrade floor consoles & equipment.
- b. Has a small second location in Quartermaster building next door.

5. ID Bureau

- a. Rooms are extremely outdated (i.e.: dark rooms in photo lab)
- b. Improper ventilation (rooms get too hot and too cold)
- c. There is wasted space in fingerprint lab
- d. Evidence storage has limited space
 - i. Should have a single point of receipt and exit
 - ii. Evidence is forced to be held in several different areas
 - iii. Need lockable drawers or cabinets
- e. Needs separate bathroom for concerns of cross contamination
- f. Layout does not put related processes near each other causing an inefficient work area.

- g. All of these concerns can have an effect on the goal of becoming accredited, which can then affect the ability to present evidence in court.
- h. ID Lab is an absolute priority and must be addressed soon.

6. Central Records

- a. Has been at capacity since 2005
 - i. Forces Precincts to hold 15 years' worth of records
- b. There is no way to scan in present records
- c. There is no backup records
- d. They are located under Internal Affairs causing a weight concern
- e. County storage facility is at maximum storage
- f. Records are being stored wherever there is space (i.e.: cafeteria)
- g. Records need to be available promptly for requests from DA, etc.
- h. Backup microfilm reels are stored at the Property Section.
- i. There is no break room for Central Records personnel.

- 7. There is no Interview room for employees, causing a room in ID Bureau to be used. County is contractually obligated to have one

8. Electronics Investigation Bureau

- a. Needs more electronic data storage room

9. Computer Crimes Bureau

- a. Will face electrical issues as larger computers are eventually needed due to lack of building capacity.

10. Property Section

- a. \$5.5 M capital for building extension in 2021
- b. The building is filled far beyond capacity. The controlled substance storage vault and firearms storage vault are especially critical.
- c. Inadequate work space exists for employees
- d. Fire suppression system being blocked due to severe capacity issues

- e. All items containing biological or trace evidence must be stored a temperature and humidity controlled environment. Best practices and relevant accreditation standards direct the temperature be maintained at between 60 to 75 degrees, with a relative humidity that does not exceed 60%.
- f. Controlled substances and illegal chemicals associated therewith must be stored in a climate controlled environment, as detailed above, with that environment positive pressure with an independent ventilation system. Noxious fumes must be removed directly from the area and not re-circulated into the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. A "negative pressure" ventilation system that changes the air in the controlled substance storage area approximately 10-12 CPH (changes per hour) is required per relevant best practices and accreditation standards.
- g. A ventilation hood is necessary for the testing of marijuana and controlled substances, particularly due to fentanyl and other hazardous chemicals.

- h. Hallway ceilings leaks- could damage electrical wires, it could cause slip and fall injuries, etc.

11. Conclusion

- Task Force will look to meet in the next two weeks, email will be sent
- Tour finished at 3:00