



“Just the Facts” about the Twin Cities Police Station

“The Twin Cities police building is outdated, inefficient and could be useless in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake.”

– Marin Independent Journal, Jan. 24, 2007

THE PROBLEM

Station & Emergency Operations Center May Not Survive a Disaster – The current police and 911 emergency dispatch center facilities were built on a landfill and would likely be incapable of staying operational and delay emergency response following an earthquake.

Outdated 911 Emergency Call Center – 911 calls have increased by 28% over the last five years, yet 911 dispatch, emergency operations center and services have not kept up with demand.

Victims Lack a Safe Space – There is no secure, private space where victims of domestic or child abuse can be separated and made to feel secure.

Overcrowding in a “Temporary” Building – Intended for a staff of 24, the station now houses more than 45 employees. Some officers have to work in an adjacent trailer. More than 30 years ago, the building was constructed as a temporary library meant to last 5-10 years. It was not originally intended to be a police station. Nor was it designed for expansion or upgrading, and it would now cost more to remodel than to rebuild.

THE SOLUTION

Modern Public Safety Facility with Updated Emergency Services:

- Earthquake-Safe building will ensure police and emergency services always remain operational.
- Upgrade computers and emergency communications systems to ensure that police officers, firefighters and paramedics can coordinate during emergencies.
- Purchase life-saving defibrillators so police can help people during medical emergencies.
- Secure, private rooms for victims where they can feel safe.
- Relieve overcrowding & improve working conditions.
- Emergency backup systems would ensure 24/7 operations, especially in a disaster, and help reduce response times.
- The building will be built to "Green"/LEED standards, using recycled materials and environmentally friendly energy systems.

A Thorough Process to Determine the Best Solution for Our Community:

This project has been more than nine years in the planning, after years of collaborative efforts by local agencies, citizens groups, community leaders and planners. This new police headquarters has been designed as a “Green” building and it would remain functional even in the worst of disasters.

Voter Approved Bond Would Provide Funding:

If approved by a two-thirds vote, the measure would provide funding needed for site preparation, constructing a new building, making site and utility improvements, improving emergency response operations and providing special programs for children for the next 40 years. Funds would be spent exclusively on the proposed police station’s construction, emergency operations improvements and police programs directed at youth and children. The bond would be subject to strict accounting procedures, on-going review by an independent citizen’s oversight committee and comprehensive annual audits.

Rev. 5-30-08

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