



Public Affairs County Board Actions

From the March 13, 2012, meeting of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

County Board Actions includes summaries of only a portion of the total actions of the board, selected for general news interest. For complete information on all resolutions and actions by the board, see the information on the last page.

Board approves weapons screening measures at suburban court locations

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution, offered by 6th District Commissioner Jan Callison, addressing security measures at the three suburban court division locations at Brookdale (in **Brooklyn Center**), Ridgedale (**Minnetonka**) and Southdale (**Edina**).

The Hennepin County Fourth Judicial District Court provides services to 42 communities at those locations. More than 1,110 court users are served each business day and more than 50,000 cases are heard annually, including assaults, domestic charges, minor criminal offenses, DWIs, traffic and parking violations.

The board approved:

- Interim (walk-through portal) weapons screening as soon as possible at Brookdale and Ridgedale (including \$280,000 in funding).
 - Temporary (wanding) weapons screening as soon as possible at Southdale.
 - \$345,000 in funding for security positions and equipment costs at all three locations.
- A comprehensive analysis by the county administrator, due to the board Nov. 1, of permanent security solutions for all three locations (including the possible closing of the Southdale court), Conciliation Court (currently in City Hall), the Violations Bureau (in the Government Center), and other appropriate areas.
 - Up to \$150,000 in funding for consultant assistance in completing the analysis.

The analysis of permanent security solutions will be done in collaboration with the Fourth Judicial District, justice partners and Hennepin County cities, to determine a plan to address the issues.

Court administration also has commissioned a study of court security, due to be completed by May 1.

Since the mid-1990s, weapons screening has been implemented at the county Juvenile Justice Center, Public Safety Facility, Family Justice Center, and the Hennepin County Government Center. The county currently spends an estimated \$1.6 million on weapons screening at these facilities.

The suburban court buildings provide more than 34,000 square feet for court-related functions and house 39 full-time court employees, seven courtrooms, three hearing offices, three in-custody holding areas, and space for probation staff, prosecutors, public defenders, victims (required by statute) and meeting rooms.