



## CITY COUNCIL Study Session

February 24, 2025

6:00 PM, Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

To view a Council meeting agenda, visit <https://independencemo.portal.civicclerk.com/> and select 'Most Recent Council Agenda'.

### PRESENTATIONS

1. Animal Cruelty Task Force (*Sponsored by Councilmember Wiley*)
2. IRIS Update
3. GO Bond Question 1 Overview: Justice Center

### STAFF REPORTS

### INFORMATION ONLY

1. Boards and Commissions Report
2. ***Please Note:*** In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).



MISSION: To unite animal control, law enforcement, and community partners to ensure that the animals of Independence are being treated humanely and living in environments free from cruelty and neglect.

A multi-disciplinary collaboration will work towards achieving this goal not only through successful investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty, but also by educating the community we serve.

## GOALS OF TASK FORCE

- Create a well-trained response team to respond to any large scale cases (hoarding, etc)
- Foster a working relationship and provide training
- Create uniform “Standards of Care” for animals in the city via ordinance
- Create uniform operating protocols and procedures including reporting incidents/cases from Independence Police to ACOs and vice versa
- Educate residents and partners about standards of care for animals in the city, and resources available
- Collect statistics/metrics regarding animal cruelty and neglect cases, and links to DV and child abuse cases

## 2025 LEGISLATION

### **CROSS-REPORTING: SB 65 (SENATOR MCCREERY)**

SB 65 would create a list of human service professionals who are mandated to report suspected animal abuse and neglect.

It creates training requirements for certain professionals to become proficient in identifying and reporting animal abuse/neglect.

It also would add animal control officers and humane investigators to the list of professionals who must report child and elder abuse/neglect.

## LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Survey of pet-owning families with substantiated child abuse and neglect found that animals were abused in 88% of cases
- 75% of abused women who have companion animals report a history of their companion animal being threatened or intentionally harmed by their abuser, with children being present and witnessing the violence over 90% of the time
- Animal cruelty is a better predictor of human sexual abuse compared to a history of homicide, arson, or weapon convictions.
- Acts of cruelty against animals are now counted alongside felony crimes like arson, burglary, assault, and homicide in the FBI's expansive criminal database (NIBRS).

## LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING

*"Animal cruelty crimes uncover other crimes – family violence, juvenile delinquency, drugs and human trafficking, and more."*

John Thompson, Deputy Executive Director,  
National Sheriffs Association

## CANA (Child & Animal Neglect/Abuse) Coalition

- Animal Control/IPD representative from Independence – Monthly meeting
  - Training
  - Case consultation
  - Legislation update

Recent case from KCMO. Animal control was alerted to potential animal abuse. Cleared the residents and animals. AC was alerted by coalition that there was child abuse in the home. Animal control then went back to residence and seized the dogs based on greater knowledge. Animals are currently being cared for in shelter clinic.

## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS/AGENCIES

- Independence Police Department
- Independence Animal Control
- Jackson County Prosecutor
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- Missouri Alliance for Animals
- Hope House
- Wayside Waifs – Humane Educators

## TRAINING OPTIONS FOR IPD – NO COST

HSUS training is free and available NOW. Courses include:

- Animal Cruelty and Animal Fighting Investigations (+ Advanced course)
- Police/Dog Encounters
- Family Violence and Animal Cruelty: How Prosecuting Animal Abuse Can Save Lives
- Veterinary Forensics in Animal Investigations
- Large Scale Neglect Investigations
- Commercial Breeding Facility Investigations
- Pet Store Investigations
- Testifying About Animal Crimes
- Community Policing and Animal Protection
- Equine Investigations
- Farm Animal Investigations

## TRAINING OPTIONS FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

- Safer Together – Virtual training by Missouri Alliance for Animals
- Under One Roof – Half day Training by Missouri Alliance for Animals
- Mandating Reporter Training – Online class

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Wayside Waifs offers educational programs for adults and children on animal care. These courses could be available at our shelter.
- Goal would be to do Humane Education for Independence School District



# City of Independence IRIS Microtransit – Initial Report

*a data-driven review of the first month of service*

# Service Overview

- **Launch Date:** January 2, 2025
- **Service Hours:** Monday-Saturday; 6:00am – 6:00pm
- **Fleet:** 5 vehicles (*1 Wheelchair Accessible, 4 Ambulatory*)
- **Booking Methods:** Riders can book via the IRIS App, Web Portal or Live Call
- **Fare:** \$5.00 per trip
- **Payment Methods:** Cash, Credit/Debit & Mobile App

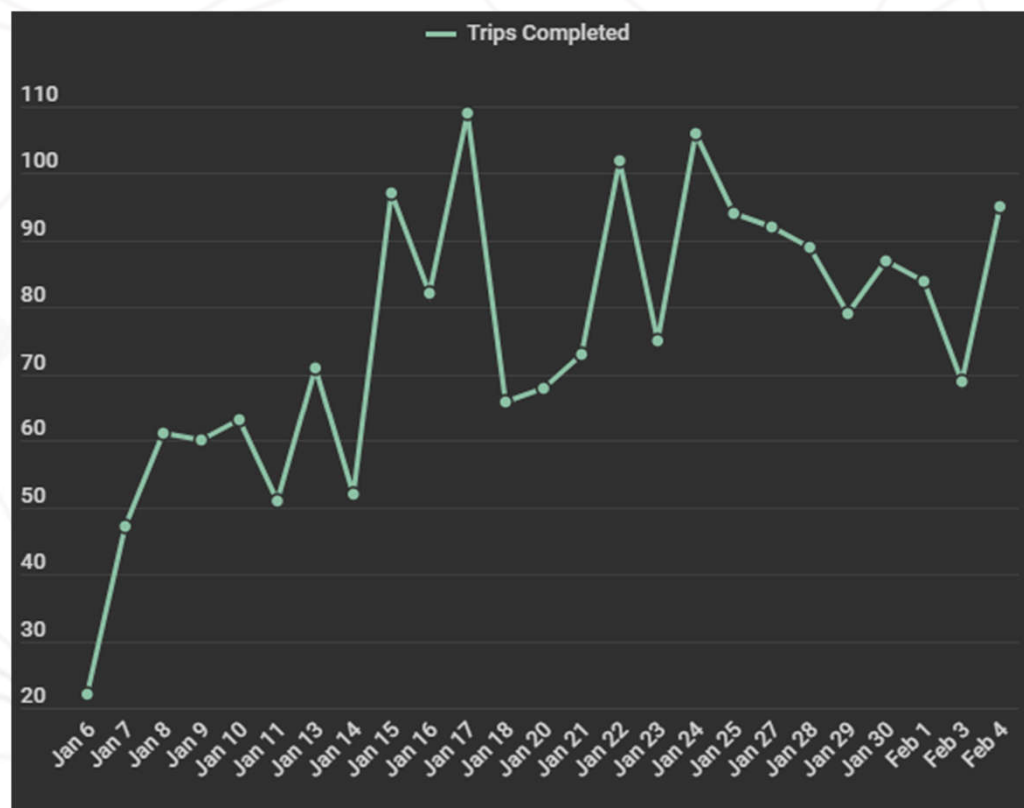


# Performance Metrics

## Trips Completed

- 2,004 Total Trips
- 221 Unique Riders

*Data Range: Jan 6 – Feb 5*

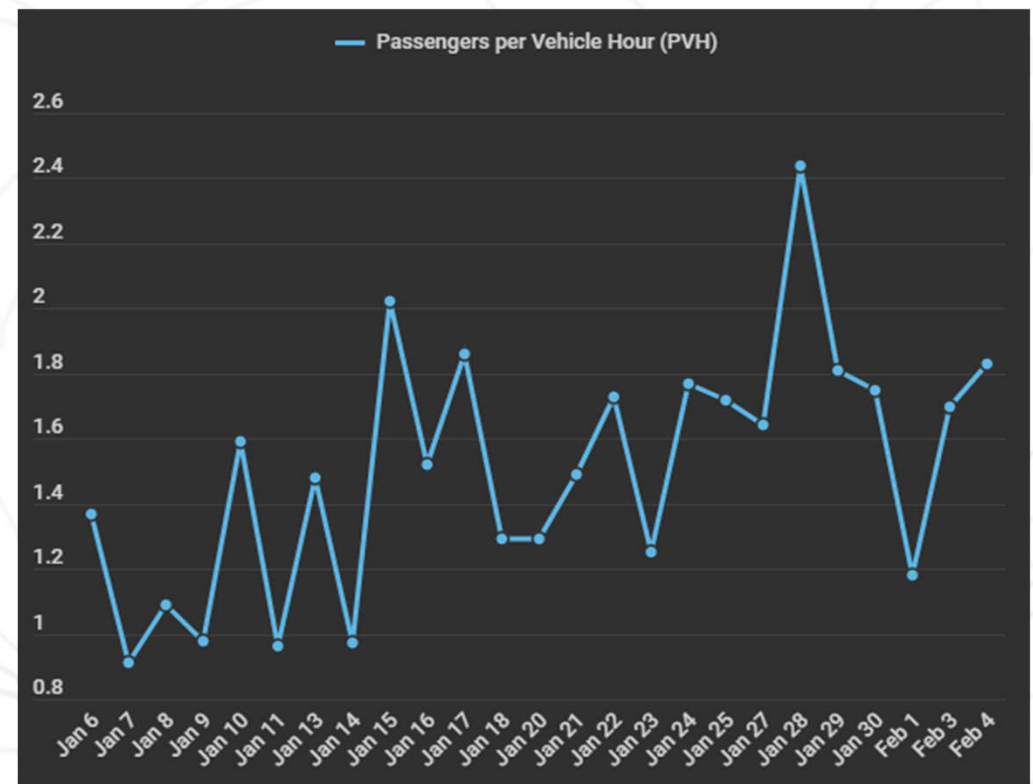


# Performance Metrics

## Passengers per Vehicle Hour (PVH)

- Current Average: 2.22 PVH
- Industry Average: 1.5 - 2.5 PVH

*Data Range: Jan 6 – Feb 5*

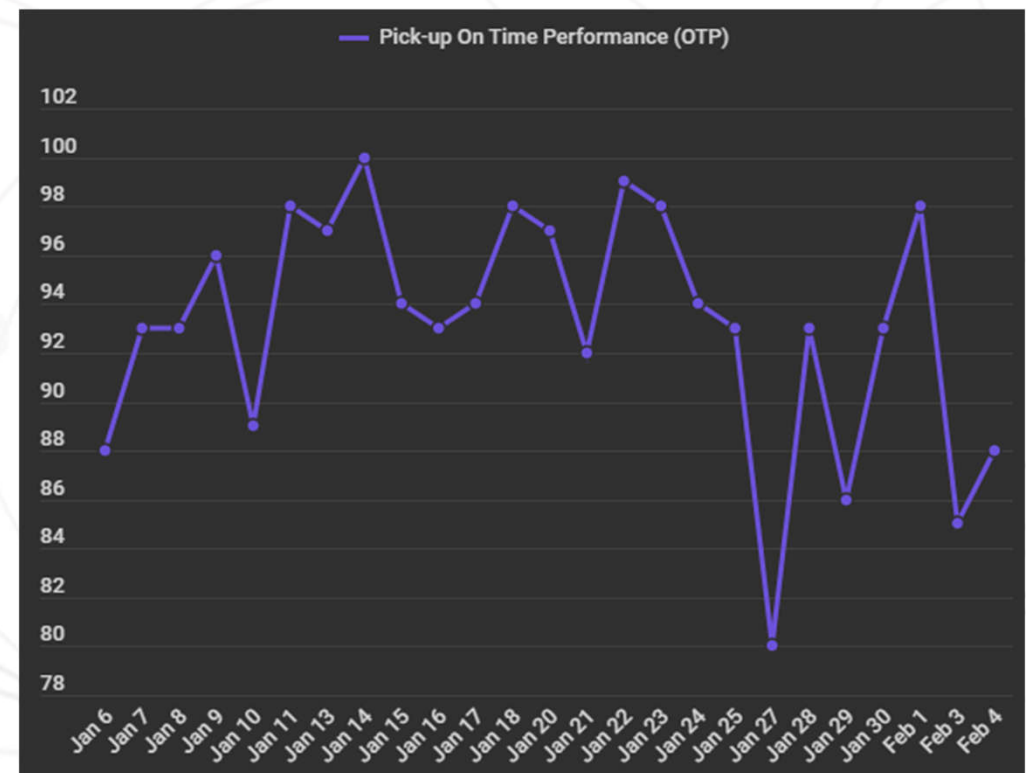


# Performance Metrics

## Pick-up On Time Performance (OTP)

- Averaging 93%

*Data Range: Jan 6 – Feb 5*

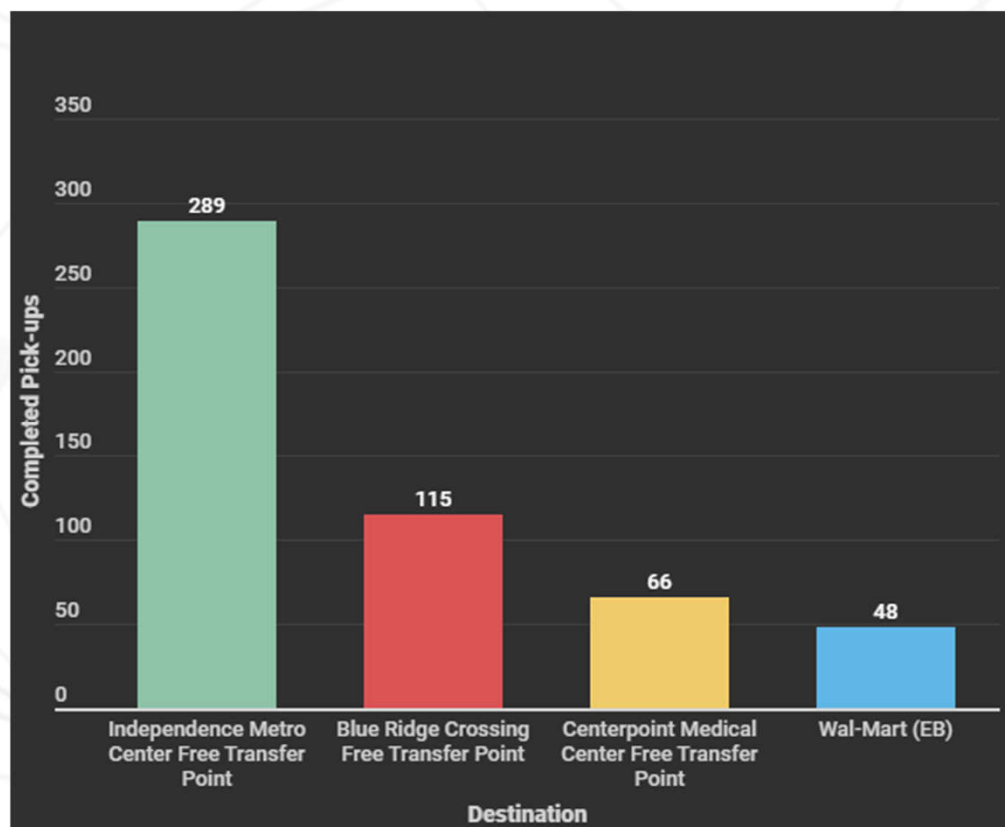


# Rider Access & Key Locations

## Top Pick-up & Drop-off Locations

### Fare-free Locations include:

- Independence Transit Center, located at Noland and Truman Rd
- Centerpoint Hospital, located at 39th and Jackson Dr.
- Blue Ridge transfer point, located at 43rd Street



# Rider Feedback & Satisfaction

Average Ride Rating: 4.8 out of 5.0!



Very wonderful,  
dependable driver!



Amazing! Makes me feel  
comfortable.



Amazing driver and friendly  
and always on time!



# IRIS Updates

- Alhaphointe Employees
- Oval Springs Apartment
- Free Hubs – 51.9% are free trips
- Number of Stops
  - Fixed Route – 245 fixed stops along major roadway
  - IRIS – over 750 (and growing) stops
- Average Walking Distance to stop = 518 feet
- Flexibility of service
- Coverage
  - IRIS covers entire City



# Why the Change to IRIS

- Cost to continue ADA Paratransit, the 24 Route and Intra-City Fixed Route
  - FY 25-26 – General Funds Needed = over \$3.3 million and by FY 29-30 over \$5.4 million.
  - Reduction of fixed route service to 6,796 hours per year.
    - Blue and Purple routes are combined into one route and the Red and Green routes are combined into one route.
    - Discontinuation of the Yellow and Orange routes.
    - All headways would be two (2) hours all day with no Saturday service.
- Cost to continue same service level provided by First Transit, ADA Paratransit and 24 Route
  - FY 25-26 – General Funds Needed = over \$4.4 million and by FY 29-30 over \$6.6 million



# Peer Community Comparison

| Peer Community Comparison                                  |             |                 |                     |               |      |                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                            | Fixed Route | ADA Paratransit | Non-ADA Paratransit | Micro-Transit | IRIS |                                                                                            |
| <b>Liberty</b>                                             | No          | Yes             | Yes                 | No            | Yes  | Libert Access Operates M-F 8:30-4:30. Funded with State of Missouri grant. IRIS fare = \$3 |
| <b>Lee's Summit</b>                                        | No          | No              | No                  | Yes           | No   | Operates M-F 7 am to 530 PM. \$3 per trip                                                  |
| <b>Gladstone</b>                                           | No#         | No              | No                  | No            | Yes  | IRIS fare = \$3                                                                            |
| <b>Grandview</b>                                           | No*         | No              | No                  | No            | No   |                                                                                            |
| <b>Blue Springs</b>                                        | No**        | Yes             | Yes                 | No            | No   | Oats service offers limited hours and days. Cost is either free or \$3                     |
| <b>Raytown</b>                                             | No***       | No              | No                  | No            | Yes  | IRIS is free within Raytown                                                                |
| <b>Independence</b>                                        | Yes         | Yes             | Yes                 | No            | Yes  |                                                                                            |
| * Grandview ended fixed route to KCMO in 2024.             |             |                 |                     |               |      |                                                                                            |
| ** Blue Springs ended Express Route to KCMO in 2024        |             |                 |                     |               |      |                                                                                            |
| *** Raytown ended fixed route connections to KCMO in 2024  |             |                 |                     |               |      |                                                                                            |
| # Gladstone ended fixed route connections to KCMO in 2023. |             |                 |                     |               |      |                                                                                            |



# Comments Received

- Number of comments from disabled
- IRIS is an option, but RideKC Freedom would a better option
- ADA Paratransit
  - Covers the entire city
  - Fare = \$3 per trip; fare is free if within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of a fixed route
- ADA still gets riders into KCMO



# Going Forward

- Continue to gather data on travel patterns:
  - Origin and destination stops
  - Time of day usage
  - Ontime performance
- Based on this data we will continue to make adjustments to our transit services.
- Current contract expires June 30, 2025





**zTrip**

**KC→  
ATA**

  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
MISSOURI

**IRIS**

**RIDE**

# **Thank You** **Questions & Answers**

*Committed to enhancing mobility options for the Independence community.*

# INDEPENDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW



# GO BOND QUESTION #1

SHALL THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, ISSUE ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING AND EQUIPPING PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND GROUNDS INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING AND EQUIPPING A NEW JUSTICE CENTER, DEMOLISHING EXISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES HOUSING FUNCTIONS THAT WILL BE MOVED TO THE NEW JUSTICE CENTER AND PREPARING SUCH SITES FOR ALTERNATIVE USES, AND ACQUIRING, RENOVATING AND EQUIPPING AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY?





## BUILDING OVERVIEW

- CURRENT BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1972-74 AND DEDICATED IN 1974.
- WAS BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE JUST OVER 100 EMPLOYEES
- SINCE THE BUILDING WAS BUILT, THERE HAVE BEEN RENOVATIONS TO NEARLY EVERY PART OF THE BUILDING TO ADAPT TO CHANGING NEEDS





## PD EXPANSION

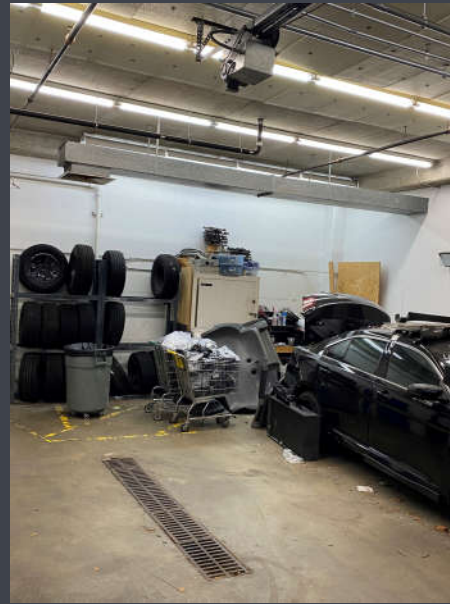
- WE HAVE GROWN TO HAVING AN OFF-SITE SWAT/TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT K-9 UNIT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
- AND SEVERAL "SUB-STATIONS"
  - ENGLEWOOD
  - INDEPENDENCE CENTER
  - HAWTHORNE PLACE APARTMENTS



# EXPANSION ISSUES

- WITH HAVING TO EXPAND TO MULTIPLE BUILDINGS UNITS ARE HAVING TO TRAVEL TO OTHER LOCATIONS SUCH AS CRIME SCENE UNIT TO K-9 UNIT TO PROCESS VEHICLE EVIDENCE
- COORDINATION WITH COMMANDERS AND SUPERVISORS CAN BE COME COMPLICATED WHEN THEY ARE LOCATED IN OTHER BUILDINGS
- MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF TECHNOLOGY IN EACH BUILDING
  - FREQUENT INTERNET, HVAC, AND POWER OUTAGES WITHIN THE PAST 6 MONTHS





# THE NEED FOR SPACE



# EVIDENCE/PROPERTY ROOM

- THE EVIDENCE/PROPERTY ROOM IS GETTING FULL. SOME EVIDENCE OF CRIMES NEEDS TO BE STORED AND HELD INDEFINITELY SUCH AS EVIDENCE RELATED TO A HOMICIDE.
- SOME EVIDENCE REQUIRES SPECIAL STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS CLIMATE CONTROL
- WATER LEAKS FROM THE CEILING PRESENT DETRIMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR THE DEGRADATION OF PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE



## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE/STORAGE

- OUR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT IS MAINTAINED BY IN HOUSE PERSONNEL WHO OPERATE OUT OF A GARAGE AT THE MAIN BUILDING
- LIMITED STORAGE AT MAIN BUILDING REQUIRES OFF SITE STORAGE (SWAT/TRAFFIC SAFETY BUILDING, CLOSETS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT HQ, OVERHEAD STORAGE ABOVE THE JAIL)
- FLEET TECHNICIAN MUST TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT AREAS TO GET NEEDED EQUIPMENT WHICH MAKES WORKFLOW INEFFICIENT



# HEALTH/SAFETY CONCERNS



# LOCKER ROOM



# LOCKER ROOM

- CONTINUAL LEAKING IN THE MEN'S LOCKER ROOM
- THIS HAS ATTEMPTED TO BE REMEDIED
- THE PROBLEM PERSISTS
- WATER DAMAGE NEAR ELECTRICAL FIXTURES





# WORKOUT ROOM

A CLOSER LOOK REVEALS WATER  
DAMAGE TO ELECTRICAL CONTROLS  
AND METAL CONDUIT



# WORKOUT ROOM

- WATER DAMAGE AROUND PIPES/ELECTRICAL CONDUIT





# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE THAT COMES OUT OF THE VENTILATION SYSTEM AND ACCUMULATES ON DESKS.
- IN THIS PARTICULAR OFFICE, NEARLY EVERY DAY



# PROPERTY ROOM



# PROPERTY ROOM

- WATER DAMAGE/MISSING CEILING TILES
- COULD POTENTIALLY DAMAGE STORED EVIDENCE





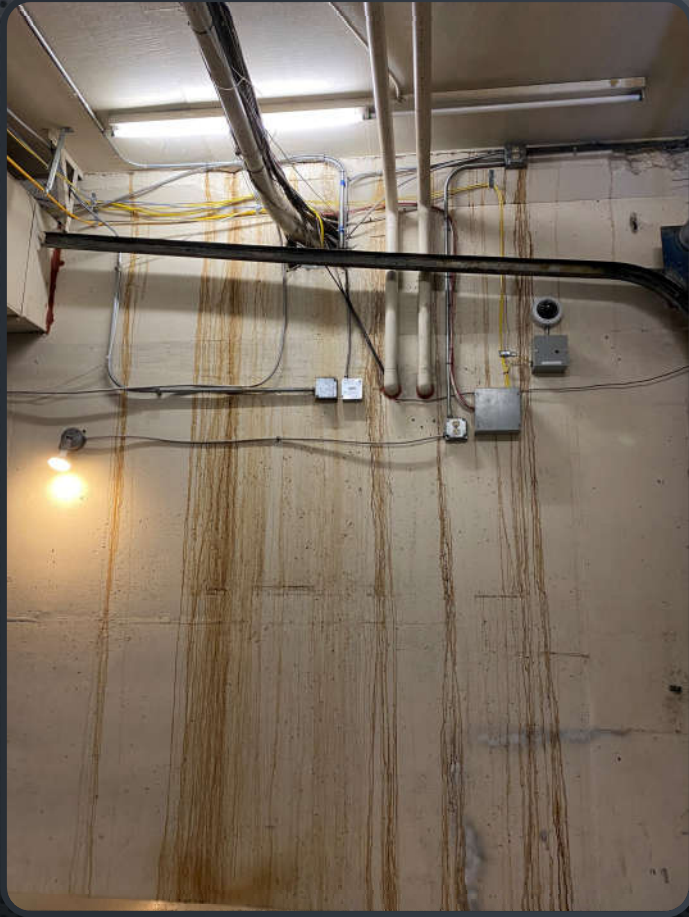
# PROPERTY ROOM

- DAMAGED LIGHTING AND PLASTIC SHEETING ON STORAGE SHELVES
- PLASTIC SHEETING IS TO CONTAIN/DIRECT WATER LEAKS



# DETENTION AREA





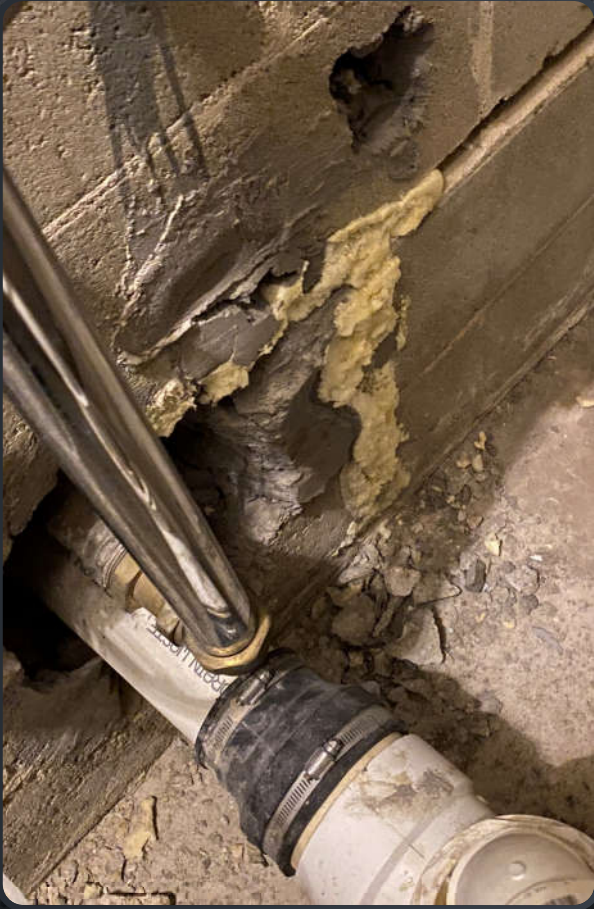
# DETENTION AREA

- WATER DAMAGE NEAR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN THE SALLY PORT



# DETENTION AREA

- WATER DAMAGE IN MAINTENANCE CORRIDOR INSIDE THE JAIL



# DETENTION AREA

- STRUCTURAL ISSUES WITH ONE OF THE WALLS IN THE DETENTION UNIT



## DETENTION AREA

- AREA WHERE THE WALL HAS SEPARATED FROM THE FLOOR AND HAS BEEN FILLED



# DETENTION AREA

- CONSTANT BATTLE TO KEEP INTRUDERS OUT
  - ROACHES
  - SNAKES
  - MICE/RATS



## 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

# RAW SEWAGE LEAKS

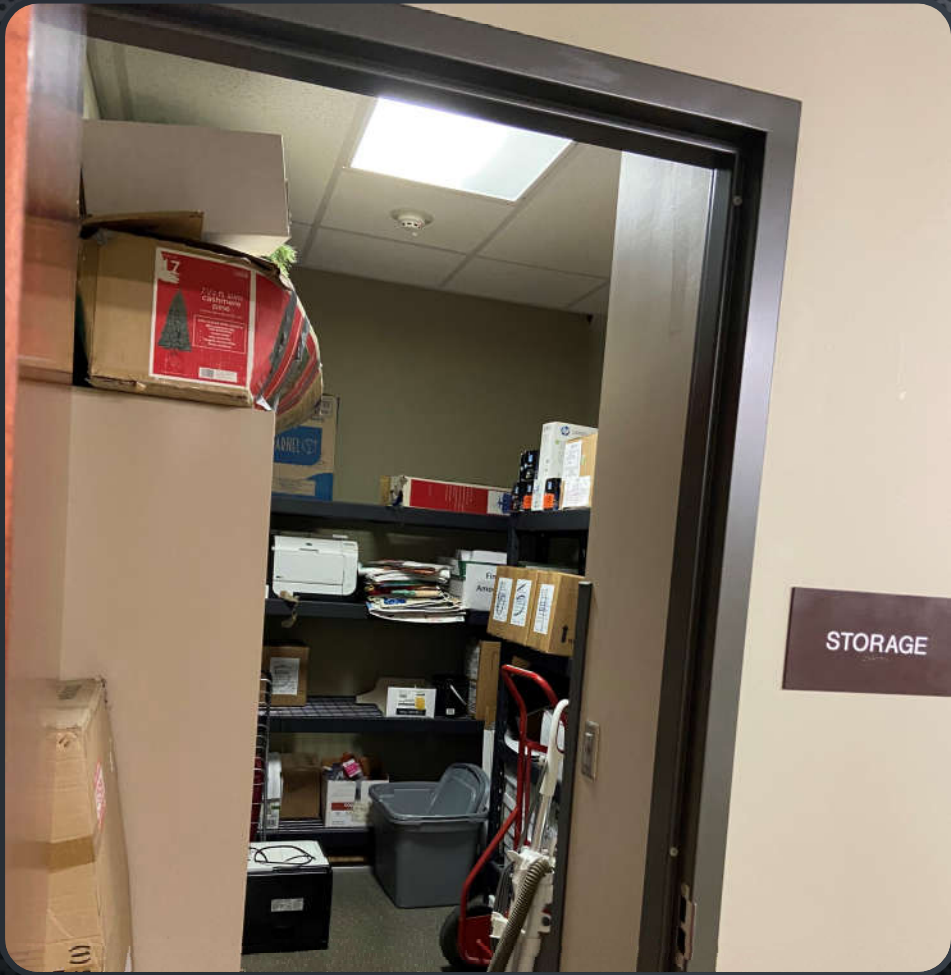
- RECORDS UNIT FILE ROOM AND STORAGE ROOM
- 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR MEN'S RESTROOM
  - 2 SEPARATE LEAKS 3 MONTHS APART IN PAST 6 MONTHS
  - MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL PUT SLEEVES ON THE LEAKS, BUT ADVISED DUE TO THE AGE OF THE PIPES, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ANOTHER BREAK OCCURS.





# RECORDS UNIT FILE ROOM SEWAGE LEAK/STORAGE NEEDS

# RECORDS UNIT STORAGE ROOM SEWAGE LEAK/STORAGE NEEDS





## 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR MEN'S RESTROOM SEWAGE LEAK

# PARKING CHALLENGES

- WE ARE OVERFLOWING IN PARKING LOT FOR BOTH PD AND PERSONAL VEHICLES.
- PERSONNEL ARE FORCED TO PARK IN THE ADJACENT CITY HALL LOT AND ST. PAUL AME CHURCH LOT
  - HAVE HAD DAMAGE TO PERSONAL VEHICLES IN CITY LOTS INCLUDING ONE BEING STOLEN.
  - PARKING LOT IS UNSECURED.
    - HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF SUBJECTS WANDERING AROUND VEHICLES IN THE LOT AT ALL HOURS, DAY AND NIGHT.
    - MAJOR SECURITY CONCERN WITH RISE IN AMBUSH STYLE ATTACKS ON LEOs.
- WE HAVE HAD TO RESORT TO PARKING PD VEHICLES AT SATELLITE LOCATIONS
  - SCHOOLS (SRO), INDEPENDENCE CENTER, CENTERPOINT HOSPITAL, IPL POWER PLANT
    - FIELD CITIZEN COMPLAINTS WHEN RESPONSE TIMES LAG DUE TO PERCEPTION THAT AN OFFICER IS CLOSE BY AND NOT RESPONDING TO CALLS, ALSO HAD DAMAGE TO VEHICLES DUE TO BEING UNSECURED.





# PARKING LOTS



# TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

- CURRENTLY, THERE IS AN INDOOR FIRING RANGE IN THE BUILDING ABOUT 4 SHOOTING LANES WIDE
- NO WAY TO BRING A VEHICLE INTO THE RANGE TO TRAIN WITH FIREARMS AND VEHICLES
- LOOKING TO PURCHASE USE OF FORCE TRAINING SIMULATORS FOR FIREARMS/DE-ESCALATION THAT REQUIRE SIZABLE SPACE TO SET UP...THEY HAVE TO STAY IN PLACE AND ARE NOT EASILY MOVED
- WE CURRENTLY RELY ON OUTSIDE ENTITIES FOR SPACE TO CONDUCT SOME TRAININGS



## WRAP UP

- OUR BUILDING HAS MANY ISSUES TO ADDRESS
- SOME HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED SEVERAL TIMES ONLY TO RETURN
- OUR DEPARTMENT IS GROWING, AND WE ARE OUTGROWING CURRENT SPACE
- OUR EVER-GROWING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REQUIRE MORE SPACE TO CONDUCT TRAINING AND DEMAND MORE OUT OF THAT SPACE





# PROPOSED JUSTICE CENTER





# PROPOSED JUSTICE CENTER





# PROPOSED JUSTICE CENTER





## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 24, 2025

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Susanne Holland, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions Report

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### **Truman Memorial Scholarship Committee**

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Hayley Woods and Deputy Chief Michelle Sumstad to the Truman Memorial Scholarship Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.

### **Japanese Sister City Committee**

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Laura Garcia Siegfried to the Japanese Sister City Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.

### **Board Building and Engineering Appeals**

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Cindy Culp to the Board of Building and Engineering Appeals.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.



### **Board of Adjustment**

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Caleb Holder as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.