



MINNEHAHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SIOUX FALLS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

500 N MINNESOTA AVE

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Date: 06/0513

To: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

From: Jeff Gromer, Minnehaha County Jail Warden

Minnehaha County Corrections Center Facility Review:

The Minnehaha County Corrections Center is located at 1900 West Russell Ave in Sioux Falls SD. The building was built in 1969 and was originally an Elks Club Lodge. The building was originally designed as a meeting venue with three large open meeting or convention type halls. One of these was designed as a dining room. The other two are fairly large open spaces to accommodate a large group of people for Wedding Receptions or business presentations.

The construction of the building consists of a concrete foundation, Brick veneer exterior, a tar and gravel roof, with drywall interior walls. The building did have a kitchen when built which was previously utilized by the county for the preparation of Jail meals, that kitchen is no longer in use.

The building was remodeled in 1992 and converted to a Correctional facility shortly after the remodel. Since that time there have been various minor modifications or cosmetic changes but no significant or structural changes to the building. The building has remained a correctional facility since 1992.

The current status of the building is less than ideal. The building has numerous systems and areas that would require significant time and expense to repair, replace or upgrade. A summary of those issues is listed below:

- 1) Boiler will need to be replaced. It is about 40 years old
 - 2) The cedar siding on the building will need to be replaced soon.
 - 3) Drainage piping is in poor condition. It is not designed for the current use.
 - 4) Plumbing fixtures, showers faucets and supply lines are in need of replacement.
 - 5) Showers need to be replaced (floor and wall tiles)
 - 6) HVAC blowers are 40 years old (very inefficient)
 - 7) Vacated kitchen needs to be gutted to make the space usable.
 - 8) Parking lot needs to be replaced, the black top is broken up beyond repair.
 - 9) Temperature control system needs to be updated, the current pneumatic system very inefficient.
 - 10) Lighting needs to be upgraded, current lighting is outdated and inefficient.
 - 11) Electrical switchgear is 40 years old, it needs to be upgraded to be reliable.
 - 12) Door security system should be upgraded, the current system is very old technology, making it difficult to find replacement parts.
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The National Institute of Corrections conducted a Jail and Justice System Assessment in Mid December of 2012. This assessment was completed at the request of the Sheriff in preparation for discussions of this committee. There were various observations and impressions noted regarding the current Minnehaha County Corrections Center during the NIC Assessment. The notable Observations and Impressions specifically related to the CCC facility were:

- CCC housing units are large 123 and 83 beds. Neither unit can be properly supervised due to the high number of inmates housed.
- Facility is not staffed to a level that allows for direct supervision of inmates. The staff frequently moves throughout the facility monitoring inmate activity but the direct supervision of inmates is limited.
- Video Surveillance is minimal; equipment is outdated or inoperable.
- Design/Layout of the facility is not efficient exacerbating the staffing problem mentioned above.
 - o One of the Units is only accessible through a boiler room. (The access to this unit is less than ideal, although this unit typically housing inmates with very minimal security concerns.)
 - o There is only one dining room to be used by both male and female inmates at different times making meal times scheduled.
 - o Each housing unit can only be observed is a staff member enters the unit.
 - o Visitation is allowed in the dining hall where inmates and visitors have direct contact leading to potential contraband problems
 - o Medical services at the CCC are limited; inmates needing medical care must be transported to the Jail.
- The facility houses Dept of Corrections inmates, sentenced County inmates and Pretrial inmates. NIC noted that this facility is not appropriate for housing pretrial inmates. With the current inmate population and numbers Jail staffs works to balance the needs of the facilities with the numbers of inmates and the security levels needed to safely house both sentenced and presentenced inmates.

NIC also noted that based on the layout of the facility and number of inmates there is a potential safety and liability issue that should be addressed, which is the basis for the NIC study and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee discussions.

The CCC is currently used to house Minnehaha County Jail inmate workers, DOC inmate workers, Inmates



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participating in the Work Release Program, Sentenced County and Contract inmates, and Presentence County and Contract inmates. The inmates housed at the CCC are low or minimum security classification inmates. There is an agreement with the City of Sioux Falls dating back to the original conversion of the facility to a correctional facility that prohibits inmates with any sex offense or violent crime convictions for being housed at the CCC.

Due to current Jail populations and space needs "overflow" inmates who classify as low or minimum security are housed at the CCC to ensure there is room in the Jail for inmates who are a more significant threat to the community.

Through the Jail System Assessment NIC recommended that a needs assessment be completed for the Minnehaha County Jail system. That topic was discussed by this committee and a proposal was presented to the Minnehaha County Commission on May 28th, 2013. That proposal was approved by the commission and will be completed.

Jeff Gromer
Minnehaha County Jail Warden



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CCC Male Dorm Partial View



CCC Female Dorm Partial View



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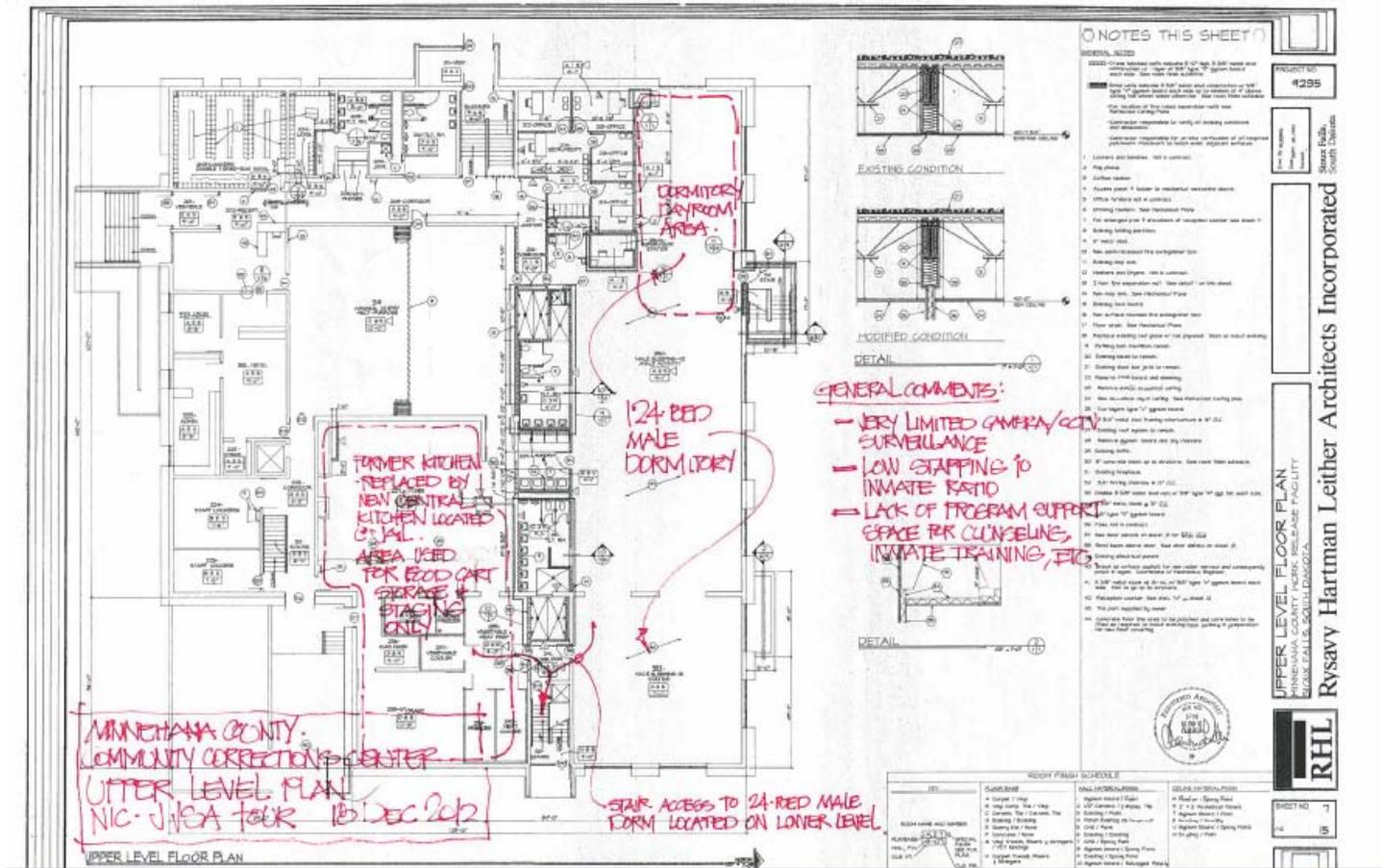
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SHEET NO. 1



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