

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Joe Nole, Jefferson County Sheriff
Jen Moore, Deputy Sheriff

DATE: February 21, 2023

SUBJECT: **HEARING Re. ORDINANCE NO. ____** re. Courthouse Security Standards and Requirements with Respect to Jefferson County Courthouse Security.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

There is a need to adopt standards and requirements with respect to Jefferson County Courthouse security. On September 12, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held a workshop and public comment period on courthouse security. On September 12th 2022, the BoCC determined that courthouse security should be administered through the Sheriff's Office.

ANALYSIS

When reviewing the issue of courthouse security, it was determined that the current resolution addressing courthouse security needs, Resolution No. 78-99, needs to be updated to reflect current law and practice, including allowing for the locking of weapons in a security locker, rather than entrusting them to the Sheriff's Chief Civil Deputy or her deputy. Because this matter is a subject of a general and permanent nature, it was determined that these standards should be adopted through an ordinance. This proposed ordinance also specifies security screening measures and provides discretion to the Sheriff's Office to determine whether it is appropriate to waive security screening for certain people, such as courthouse employees.

RCW 9.41.300(1)(b) states:

"It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her control a weapon:

(b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection."

FISCAL IMPACT/COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS:

There are no expected fiscal impacts from consideration of this ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION:

After listening to public testimony Adopt the DRAFT Ordinance, Standards and Requirements with respect to Jefferson County Courthouse Security

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

Date

