

Request for Council Action

Originator City Manager	Item Hennepin County Courts Facility Proposal
Agenda Section Organizational	Date 5/11/2015
Description	

Hennepin County has been planning for the replacement of its facility in Edina. The existing facility includes the license service center, Southdale library and suburban courts. The County is planning to separate the three services and redevelop the site on 70th and York Avenue.

The City Council previously discussed the possibility of relocating the Hennepin County Courts facility for the south suburban communities to Bloomington; conceptually adding onto the west end of the existing Police wing of Civic Plaza. Staff was directed to continue working with the County.

Since that discussion, the County has signed a long-term lease to install a service center inside Southdale Mall. The County is planning to incorporate a new library into the redevelopment plan for the existing site. Hennepin County would like to resolve the Courts issue by June. Their options are to build new in Bloomington or move the Courts to the Hennepin County tower in downtown Minneapolis.

Moving court services downtown is likely going to increase expenses to the City by at least \$125,000 in Sheriff booking fees and mileage/parking. There will be increased loss of productivity for our police officers and prosecutors, which also likely means real cost increases in overtime and possible increases in staffing to compensate for lost productivity. The final real impact moving downtown is the inconvenience to Bloomington and other south Hennepin County residents (Edina and Richfield); not just defendants but victims and victim advocates.

Should the County choose to build a new facility at the Bloomington Civic Plaza, County officials are indicating that financial participation -- primarily tied to a parking ramp -- from the City would be necessary.

Requested Action

Staff will provide additional information and seeks direction from the City Council.

Attachments: