



# Board of Commissioners

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER PROJECT IS SET TO BEGIN

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 3, 2022– The Board of Lake County Commissioners signed the contract to begin a programming study for the Lake County Public Safety Center with HOK. The HOK team will work with key stakeholders to determine existing conditions, needs, and future forecasts with Lake County.

“Safety and law enforcement are a top priority for the County Commissioners,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck. “It is important our county has a facility to meet our long-term needs over the next 50 years. This project has been contemplated for over 10 years, and with the support of Sheriff Frank Leonbruno and the Lake County Corrections Board, we are excited for this next phase of the public safety center project to begin.”

A criminal justice system is the single most complex and perhaps most impactful program a county operates. A properly functioning justice system provides wide-ranging benefits to the community and contributes to Lake County being a vibrant and sustainable place to live and work, and does so in a cost-effective manner.

"After significant evaluation, based on experiential data, as well as two major studies on the current jail facility over the past five years, Lake County must begin the process of building a new adult detention facility. Although the County has performed routine maintenance over the years, many of the overall physical building system components such as plumbing, mechanical, electrical, security, and fire protection have reached the end of their useful life cycle. This is based on national, predictable construction material life cycles with expected escalation for similar facilities," said Sherriff Frank Leonbruno. "Additionally, we need to address ADA compliance, flexible programming space deficiency, intake deficiency, and mental health treatment for nearly 70% of the jail population. A future facility must provide adaptable space for changing demographics and the multitude of treatment/educational programs required at local jails. This includes substance abuse, mental unit, and other classification standards."

HOK, and their subject matter experts, will bring their expertise in detention operations, facilities management, and financial analysis, and importantly, comprehensive justice system understanding to address the following key elements:

- A fair system that respects all stakeholders, whether they be employees, arrestees, users, family, and others;
- Humane and rapid access to justice systems, with emphasis on the well-being of all;

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- Highly efficient system that makes best use of integrated facilities to promote practical, safe, efficient operations;
- Sustainable solutions that best utilize the resources of Lake County;
- Utilizing best practices in intake, diversion, arraignment, court procedures, treatment, and reintegration to provide the best outcomes for every member of your community that enters and interacts with your system.

"I am very grateful for the hard work and dedication of Sheriff Leonbruno and our supporting departments in maintaining the current facility. That said, the time has come for us to look at a long-term, fiscally responsible solution for the Lake County Public Safety Center and I look forward to working with the HOK team," said Commissioner Plecnik. "The expense of maintaining the existing jail has become cost-prohibitive, and that is why the Board of Commissioners has accepted the unanimous recommendation of our local corrections Board to begin the programming phase of building a new facility."

The four-month comprehensive programming phase will result in documents that identify a preferred site for the facility, overall size, and proposed budget. Specifically, the program document will consider (among others):

- Relationship between the project site, existing buildings, streets, and surrounding areas;
- Identify requirements with respect to access, security, and utilities;
- Enhancing space utilization;
- Eliminate overcrowding;
- Improving the work environment;
- Integrate technology uses and accommodate technological advances in the operation of a corrections facility

The Current Lake County Sheriff's Office and Jail opened in 1990 and was designed to hold 353 inmates.

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