

REVISED

AGENDA
ITEM
DATE

6C
12-14-09



City Council Report

Date: December 14, 2009
To: City Council
Through: Trisha Sorensen, Assistant to the City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Subject: Procure Video-Arraignment System & Queue Management System for the New Court Building
City Project 01-850-001
Council District 4

**Strategic
Initiatives**



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council on two procurement packages that will support the operation of the new Court Building, located at 250 E. 1st Avenue (See Exhibit "A" for the project location).

It is recommended that Council approve the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements to purchase and install video arraignment equipment and an upgraded, expanded queue management system (i.e., "take a number" customer service system) to support operation of the new Court Building. The total value of these contracts shall not exceed \$190,000.

Background

Construction on the new Court Building is scheduled to be complete in January 2010 with public operation of the building anticipated to begin in late February. The video-arraignment equipment and queue management system are necessary for operation of the building.

Discussion

Video-Arraignment: Video-arraignment allows the defendant to appear before the judge though the defendant may be located elsewhere. This also allows victims and others to view the proceedings remotely. This is particularly important when the

victim (which may be a child) feels threatened by direct contact with the defendant. Video arraignment is critical to court operations due to the legal requirement to conduct an initial appearance with every defendant arrested within 24 hours.

The video-arraignment equipment in the existing court building is antiquated, no longer supported, and is not web-based. The system is a "hard-wired" system, meaning that there must be a direct, dedicated, wired connection from the camera location to the viewing location. There is, therefore, very little flexibility in viewing locations without incurring large expense to establish a new, dedicated wire path to the new location(s).

The video-arraignment equipment proposed for purchase for the new Court Building will be a digital system that utilizes existing City fiber network infrastructure for greatly expanded reach and capability and much improved audio/video signal quality. The digital system will be used for both County and City in-custody proceedings. The system will be obtained through State Contract, allowing the City to purchase the Tandberg brand system that is fully compatible with equipment already purchased by other City departments for videoconferencing. This helps achieve standardization and communication compatibility across City departments.

Queue Management System: A queue management system is necessary at the Customer Service counters and Collections counters in the new Court Building to efficiently serve the large number of customers that utilize these areas each day. The system proposed for the new Court Building includes relocating the existing Q-Matic brand system components from the current court building to the new building and upgrading the system to a web-based version that will serve both Customer Service and Collections counters with a seamless integrated system. Because this is an upgrade to an existing system, it is a sole source item, with the cost of the upgraded and expanded Q-Matic system being much less than the cost of a totally new system.

Alternatives

Video Conferencing: One alternative is to not purchase the new equipment. For video-arraignment, this would mean that the existing video-arraignment system would remain in-use. This is not recommended because the existing system is antiquated and would require expensive equipment to broadcast analog video signals to the new Court Building. The current viewing location is also limited to the existing main Police Department (PD) building, allowing for little flexibility to separate victims and victims' families from defendant's families without incurring the cost of establishing a new hard-wired route from the existing PD building to the new Court Building.

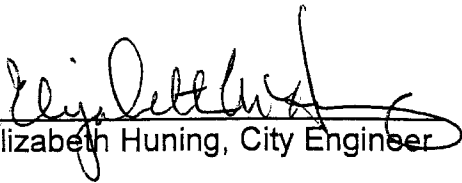
Queue Management System: For the queue management system, this would mean transferring the existing Q-Matic system to the new building without the upgrade or expansion. Since support for the existing software will end soon, this leaves the City vulnerable. Failing to expand the system to the new capacity of the new Court Building would also make the additional capacity under-utilized.

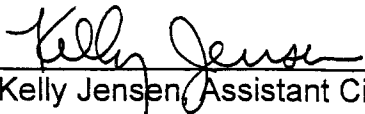
Fiscal Impact

This approval will not exceed \$190,000 (approximately \$143,500 for the video-arraignment system and \$46,500 for the Queue Management system). Funding will be available from allocated contingencies, although primary funding is expected to come from Supreme Court technology grants.

Coordinated With

Courts and the City Prosecutor's Office concur with this recommendation.


Elizabeth Huning, City Engineer


Kelly Jensen, Assistant City Engineer

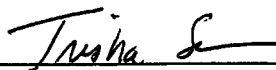
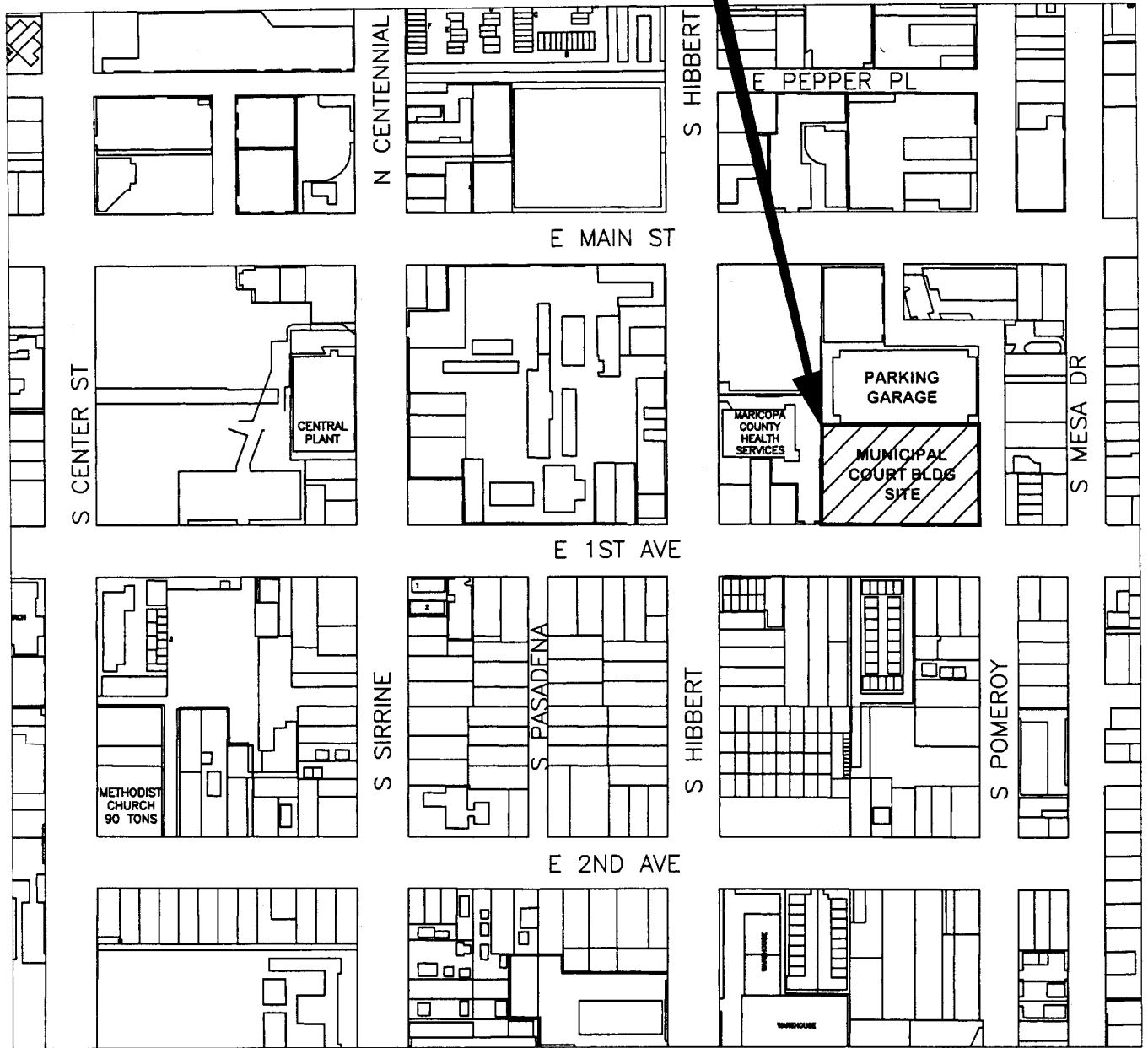

Patricia Sorensen,
Assistant to the City Manager



EXHIBIT "A"

NEW COURT BUILDING
LOCATION



FILE: ESPROJECTS\01-850-001 & 002 MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING\CAD\VICINITY MAP FOR COURT BUILDING.dwg 05/07/09

NEW MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING LOCATION PROJECT NO. 01-850-001



RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ONE OR MORE AGREEMENTS TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL EQUIPMENT FOR THE COURT BUILDING AT 250 EAST FIRST AVENUE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, MARICOPA COUNTY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City of Mesa is constructing through separate contract a new Court Building at 250 East First Avenue, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona. Furthermore, the building is scheduled for completion and public opening in February 2010.

Section 2: That the City of Mesa desires to purchase and install certain equipment not provided for under said contract to provide for full functionality of said Court Building.

Section 3: That the City estimates the cost of the equipment to be One Hundred Forty Three Thousand Dollars (\$143,500) for a video-conferencing system and Forty Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,500) for a queue management system, with the total amount authorized by this Resolution to not exceed One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000).

Section 4: That the City Manager, Christopher J. Brady, or his designated representative, is authorized and directed to enter into one or more agreements to procure and install the video-conferencing system and the queue management system and the City Clerk is authorized and directed to attest to the signature of the City Manager or his authorized designated representative thereon.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona, this 14th day of December, 2009.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk