

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



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February 25, 2015

Rep. Alice Emmons, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Members of House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Statehouse, 115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Representative Emmons and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Judiciary to testify regarding its security infrastructure needs in the FY 2016-2017 Capital Bill. As we testified, the Judiciary requested \$590,000 for security needs, which reflected known needs for holding cell build-out in Addison and Windham, as well as security needs generated as part of the assessment by outside experts. As you know, the Governor included \$100,000 for the security line item.

You asked whether we have specific itemization of security infrastructure needs across the branch. You specifically asked – if provided \$400,000 of capital funds to be specifically designated for security infrastructure, which items would be the Judiciary's highest priorities. Attached please find a spreadsheet with our assessment of security infrastructure needs across the entire branch. Given the significant existing deficiencies, including those identified by the consultants, the list totals almost \$3 million. Of these items, we have prioritized \$400,000 worth of projects that we believe constitute the most pressing security infrastructure needs. (Please see the far right hand columns of the spreadsheet for a total of our critical needs, and our prioritized list totaling \$400,000.)

We have specifically focused on courthouses where Criminal and Family Divisions are located based on prioritization of threat potential. This priority list includes the Addison and Windham holding cells. Other key items include: an x-ray machine; metal detectors; security cameras; duress alarms; screening post ballistic protection; and strengthening and enhancement of public transaction counters. In many instances, these items are replacing aged and/or failing existing systems.

We would happy to present this list to the Committee and answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,



Matt Riven  
Chief of Finance and Administration

Attachment

cc:

Representative Maxine Grad, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Sears, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Peg Flory, Chair  
Senate Institutions

Supreme Court Justices  
Patricia Gabel, Esq., State Court Administrator

Steve Klein, Director, Joint Fiscal Office  
Catherine Benham, Joint Fiscal Office

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