

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plainfield Law Enforcement Center Open House Dec. 9 **Police, Judicial and Emergency Operations Now Under One Roof**

PLAINFIELD [November 4, 2006] With its new Law Enforcement Center ready for business, the Village of Plainfield embarks on a new era in municipal government this December when it gives the public its first glimpse of the new \$12 million facility at 143rd Street and Coil Plus Drive.

Plainfield residents and their families are invited to take a self-guided tour of the new facility at 14300 South Coil Plus Drive from 9 am - 1 pm on Saturday, December 9.

For most, the facility's mammoth size will be their first impression. They'll also notice the row of panoramic, curving windows on the structure's first floor that will provide Plainfield Police command staff with a sweeping, "bird's eye" view of the Village.

At 71,000 square feet, the oval-shaped facility was designed on a 13.5-acre parcel to allow it plenty of room to grow. With annual projections through 2018 pointing to 2,000 new Plainfield residents each year, it was vital to design a municipal complex to meet this expected influx.

The building also houses a court room that can be converted to a multi-purpose room for 200.

"This building is definitely one for the books," says Plainfield Police Chief Donald E. Bennett. Unlike most clients, Bennett chose to work side-by-side with building designers from the very first day to ensure that the facility met his expectations.

"Our plan from the very beginning was to consolidate Plainfield's vital Village functions—police, judicial and 9-1-1 Emergency Operations—all in one building," Bennett explains. "This allows the Village to reduce its operational costs, which ultimately benefits on our taxpayers."

Amid this cost-savings, it's easy to lose sight of the building's innovation. A variety of sophisticated features will captivate its police and public alike: a sequence of investigation, interviewing, and processing rooms that separate officers and staff from visitors; a "situational" firing range in the basement that simulates real-life conditions; and a theatre-style training room that can comfortably seat 50 staff.

Other features include six cells, three "flexible" holding cells for juvenile offenders, and three interview rooms. A Bond-Out Room with a separate entrance eliminates prisoner contact with the public.

Police staff will enjoy amenities like separate locker rooms for male and female officers, complete with mechanically ventilated lockers and extra storage space beneath. A co-ed fitness center adjoins the locker rooms. They'll also benefit from a state-of-the-art Crime

Scene Investigations Laboratory, as well as an evidence room large enough to park a construction Bobcat.

The addition of WESCOM Regional 911 Center to the facility's second floor offers the Plainfield Law Enforcement Center instant credibility among neighboring villages. Four other police departments and eight other fire departments will utilize WESCOM's dispatch center for round-the-clock emergencies.

Plainfield residents will also rest easier at night knowing that a fully equipped Emergency Operations Center resides in the building's basement. In event of an emergency—natural or otherwise—this functional space leaps to duty as an “Operations Center.” It's here where emergency management teams—Illinois State Police, FEMA, ComEd, Nicor, among others—can gather in a moment's notice.

The building was designed by the tandem of Gilfillan Callahan Architects from Rolling Meadows and Batavia, and Northbrook-based Moyer Associates, Inc., who specializes in police facility planning.

“A great deal of time and thought went into the design of the Plainfield Law Enforcement Center,” says Patrick Callahan, one of the building architects. “This facility reflects a ‘smart design’ and represents the latest in technology and innovation,” he adds. “We're both proud and pleased to present it to Plainfield residents.”

While this may not be the first municipal facility to combine Village functions under one roof, Callahan relates, what makes the Plainfield Law Enforcement Center unique are the steps that designers took to reduce contact between criminals—the “bad guys”—and the public.

This was accomplished by “sequencing,” a design technique that closely examines each step of how a criminal is brought into the facility, processed, and exits. Additions and renovations to the former Plainfield police building on Route 59 required department staff to walk criminals up and down stairways to different parts of the building for processing.

The facility's other innovations include an improvement on the traditional, two-car sallyport, or garage entranceway, where prisoners are transported from squad cars into the building. A review of other police designs over the past decade prompted designers to create a wider-than-usual transportation route through the restricted part of the building. This space allows for a shower area to rinse soiled prisoners, as well as a safe place to gather hazardous biowaste.

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Gilfillan Callahan Architects is a community architect that specializes in designing and master planning critical elements within a community—including municipal buildings, schools and community centers. The mid-sized architectural firm has offices in Rolling Meadows and Batavia. Founded in 1992, Gilfillan Callahan Architects has completed more than 300 successful community-based projects throughout the Chicago metro area.