

# GILA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACILITIES PROPOSAL

## “BITE-SIZED” INFORMATION ARTICLES

### (1) Let's visit about the proposed new county facilities

Over the next several pages we will share with you our “cut to the chase” information and thinking that led the Gila County Facilities Planning Citizens Advisory Committee – hereafter just called “Committee” – to make the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors that they did. We will explore with you what the recommendations are, what they mean, what impacts they will have and so on.

We will present you with the facts as we know them and are happy to answer any questions you may have. If we can't give you an answer, we'll find someone who can. If what we say is too confusing – tell us, we'll find another way of presenting the information. If you think we're just “pulling the wool over your eyes” – tell us, we sure don't mean to be. If you belong to a group we could come visit with or you'd just like more information, call us – 928-474-7100.

This issue is of the utmost importance to and will be paid for by us, the citizens of this county. The decisions we make about it deserve to be made on the merits of the solutions presented and not on the catchiness of a sound bite.

So here goes. The Committee was basically charged with taking an in-depth look at the situation and the facilities we currently have and with exploring available solutions including ways to pay for those solutions. They were told that both time and cost effectiveness were of the essence.

At the end of an intense four months, the Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors which they called “Option 1” that was based upon eight Consensus Agreements developed in the nine public meetings they held between January 18 and May 14, 2007. (For the record – 3 meetings were held in Globe, 4 in Payson, 1 in Roosevelt and 1 at the Yavapai County Jail in Camp Verde. Also for the record, of the 13 folks that were members of this Committee, 6 lived in the southern end of the county and 7 lived in the northern end.)

The first one of the Consensus Agreements is the foundation for all the other Agreements and Option 1. It says: "The Committee unanimously agrees that Gila County needs new jail, court and administration facilities. These facilities should be designed and built to accommodate growth to the year 2027, and be completed as soon as the requisite funding is available."

The other Agreements dealt with leasing potential excess bed space in the proposed new jails to defray expenses; building on the existing north and south county "campuses"; providing public meeting space; bringing together a group of diverse stakeholders early in the design process: using the Design-Build project delivery method; establishing a "Citizens Implementation Committee" to oversee the complete construction process; and supporting what they called "Option 1" as regards programming data, number of jail beds, square footage of new facilities, and voter approved funding options. The exact wording of all Agreements, etc. is available upon request.

In a nutshell, Option 1 recommends for Globe a Criminal Justice Center that includes a remodeling of the current jail to include a new 48 cell/96 bed "pod" bringing the total jail beds in Globe to 186. The total cost for the jail renovations is estimated at just under \$5.9 million. New Court and Administration facilities are also recommended to be built on the Globe Campus with a total cost estimated to be at \$7.75 million. The total estimated expenditures for the Globe Campus would be right at \$13.65 million.

Option 1 also recommends for the Payson Campus a Criminal Justice Center with new jail facilities of 48 cells and all the attendant administration, medical, housekeeping, etc. infrastructure with a total cost for demolition, disposal, site preparation, construction, etc. at just under \$11.3 million. Also recommended for the Payson Campus is new Court and Administration facilities to house all the attendant activities of the courts, county attorney, probation and constable at a price of just under \$6.5 million. The total estimated expenditures for the Payson Campus would be right at \$17.8 million.

A grand total estimated cost for all new facilities – jails and courts combined – would be right at \$31.5 million. The jails would take up nearly \$17.2 million and the courts and administration would take about \$14.25 million.

You now have the basics. Next we'll visit about appraisals, costs of different locations, visions for the different campuses, what is a general obligation bond and why, why a sales tax proposal and lots of other fun stuff!