

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**County Tightens Security at Facilities
Visitors should be prepared for screening process**

Waukesha, WIS. – Waukesha County reminds all government center visitors, customers and clients that a weapons screening program will go into effect on Thursday, October 12. With the exception of pre-screened staff, all persons seeking to access the Courthouse and the Administration Center must enter and exit at the main entrance (door 2) of the Courthouse and will go through a mandatory screening check-point. County staff will not be allowed to let the public in at entrances designated for employees only.

Wisconsin state statutes prohibit the carrying of a firearm in any government facility and county ordinance prohibits persons from being admitted into County buildings if they are found to have any item in their possession that could pose a danger to the safety and security of workers and the public, excluding sworn law enforcement officers who are on duty at the time.

“Ensuring that the public feels safe and secure when visiting County office buildings is a major priority, and I believe that screening for weapons will provide an additional layer of protection,” stated County Executive Dan Vrakas. “Since this is a new process, please be patient with us as we look to make it more efficient for everyone.”

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“County Tightens Security at Facilities” continued...

The weapons screening station will be similar to those used at airports. Individuals will place their carried items, like purses, cell phones, laptop computers and briefcases, on a conveyor belt and will place any metal items from their clothing and pockets in a bin, all of which will be X-rayed. Visitors will then walk through a metal detector and will retrieve their belongings on the other side.

Security staff is prepared to assist persons with special needs and to answer questions about personal and health concerns related to the screening process as they enter the facility.

If a person brings prohibited items, such as firearms, knives, explosives, scissors, blades, razors, box cutters and pepper spray to the weapons screening station, the individual will be given the option of removing legal items from the Government Center grounds or disposing of them in a non-retrievable weapons disposal box. Anyone found in possession of any illegal items faces possible charges.

Persons that make inappropriate statements as they enter the Courthouse pertaining to weapons, bombs and other equipment that might be a threat to the safety and well-being of others could face possible charges.

For more information about the screening station, items prohibited from coming into county buildings and available parking near the main entrance of the Courthouse, which is located at 515 W. Moreland Blvd. in Waukesha, please go to www.waukeshacounty.gov and click on the Security Screening link.

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