



The County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

Facilities Division
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To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
From: Chuck Harrell
Date: February 10, 2025
Subject: Security Considerations Regarding the Public Disclosure of Jail Plans & Specifications

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to provide a brief explanation as to why certain aspects of jail plans cannot be made public, particularly regarding security concerns. It is crucial to safeguard the integrity of our facility's operations and ensure the safety of both the public and the individuals incarcerated within our system.

1. Security Risk to Facility and Staff:

Publicizing detailed jail plans can expose critical vulnerabilities in the facility's design and operations. Information such as layout, security measures, and access points can be exploited by individuals with malicious intent, including inmates, external criminal groups, or other parties who may seek to undermine the safety of the facility or harm staff members.

2. Escape Risk:

Knowledge of the internal configuration of the jail, including key entry and exit points, can provide inmates with valuable information to attempt escapes. By ensuring these plans remain confidential, we minimize the risk of potential breakouts and avoid giving individuals with unlawful intentions an advantage.

3. Protection of Vulnerable Populations:

Certain areas of the jail, such as those housing vulnerable populations, must be kept confidential to prevent targeted violence. Public knowledge of these areas could increase the likelihood of harm to those individuals, including at-risk inmates or those in protective custody.

4. National and Local Security Standards:

Adhering to security protocols is an industry standard for correctional facilities, mandated by federal, state, and local regulations. Publicly sharing sensitive information related to jail infrastructure could violate those protocols and put the facility at odds with established best practices for secure operations.

5. Legal and Liability Concerns:

In the event of an incident at the facility, the public disclosure of sensitive planning documents could expose the county to unnecessary legal risks. Should any information be used maliciously or result in harm, the county could be held liable for failing to adequately protect against such threats.

In conclusion, while transparency is important in many aspects of governance, there are specific security concerns that justify the need to keep jail plans confidential. I recommend that we continue to work closely with security experts to evaluate our protocols and ensure the safety of both the facility and the community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

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