



50 provides future capacity for the time when the county will have another judge in the case of the  
51 courthouse, or if other needs in youth justice arise. This is an approach that could also be used  
52 for the jail.

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54 To provide the incentive and confidence needed to realize successful reform, Dane County could  
55 remove the bed capacity provided by Housing Unit 3A in the 3rd floor of the Public Safety Building.  
56 Leaving available space sets the expectation that the system-wide cooperation and innovation  
57 prompted by COVID-19 and criminal justice reform can lead to much needed long lasting change  
58 in our criminal justice systems.

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60 Some might say that this space should be built out for programming, however programming in jail  
61 is challenging given the relatively short length of stay. The average amount of time in the Dane  
62 County Jail is approximately 24 days, making it difficult to deliver effective programs. With Dane  
63 County working to reduce average length of stay, programming space and dollars are better  
64 invested in existing and proposed deflection and diversion programs.

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66 In order to have proper space for housing people in the appropriate setting according to their  
67 classification and accounting for peaking population times a 20 percent bed buffer is needed. An  
68 under roof average daily population of 687 or fewer allows for the closing of Housing Unit 3A.  
69 Additionally, the consolidated jail will include medical and mental health beds, which are occupied  
70 temporarily until an individual is ready to move to a more permanent housing unit. Conversely  
71 medical or mental health housing is not available for those without those needs.

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73 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests  
74 that the Office of the Sheriff work with planning, design, and architecture contractors to present  
75 a revised plan to the County Board for the jail consolidation project that proactively reduces the  
76 total bed count to 872 through redesign of the South Tower, which begins to proactively address  
77 our community's demand to consider the impacts of criminal and racial justice reforms in RES-  
78 185, and lessons learned through policy and practice changes in 2020, and the downstream  
79 impacts that these efforts will have on the jail population.

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