

Sub ___ 2018 RES-420
URGING ALLOCATION OF SPACE FOR SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATION
IN THE CONSOLIDATED DANE COUNTY JAIL

In 2017, Dane County approved the consolidation of its three jail facilities into a single building.

The consultants Mead and Hunt are currently designing a structure to be located on West Wilson Street to adjoin the Public Safety Building. ~~The consolidated jail will have almost 100 fewer beds than the three existing facilities. It will also include space for medical services, youthful inmate housing, and programs and activities.~~

~~There has been recent discussion of the importance of spiritual reflection for those who are incarcerated. While some have advocated for inclusion of a chapel in the design of the new facility, others point out that a broader and more inclusive conception of a spiritual space would be appropriate.~~ communal services/activities for those who are incarcerated, to meet their psychological, social and emotional needs. It is important for the consolidated jail to have a space available for personal growth programs or other group activities, e.g. tutoring, religious gatherings, mutual support groups, group study, parenting, etc., and the design of such a space should take into account the desire to be inclusive. The space shall be decorated and maintained in a manner that does not favor one group or use over any other.

~~The design of the consolidated jail must balance competing needs. It may be necessary for a multi-purpose space to serve as a place of contemplation at scheduled times, rather than being available solely for this use.~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of affording individuals the opportunity to choose to engage in spiritual reflection, and hereby expresses our desire that the Sheriff work with his office and any consultants, including Mead and Hunt, to identify ways to accommodate space for this activity within the design and construction of the consolidated jail. right of people who are incarcerated to have equitable access to attend personal growth programs including: communal spiritual services/activities according to their respective traditions and practices in compliance with federal guidelines, tutoring, recovery groups, support groups, parenting, anger management, etc. and hereby urge the Sheriff work with his office and relevant consultants, along with Mead and Hunt, to ensure that space for personal growth programs is included in the design and construction of the consolidated jail.