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**Oct. 17, 2022**

## **Greene County youth detention moves to former Justice Center**

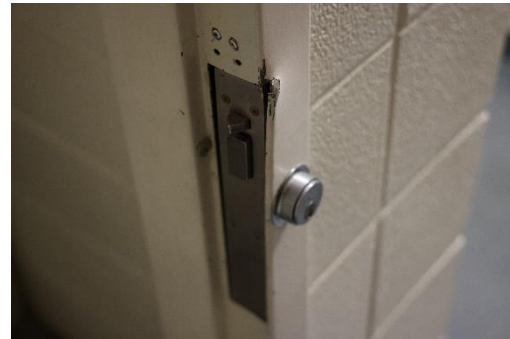
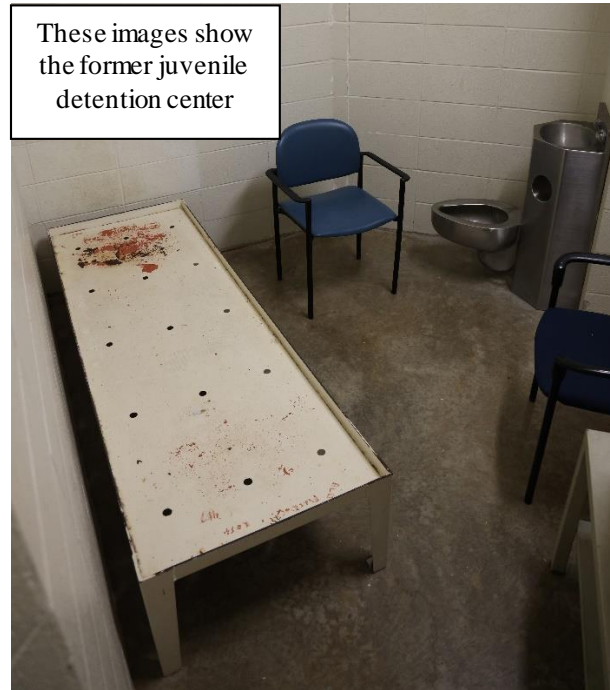


*SPRINGFIELD, Mo.* – Greene County detention staff and youth officially moved to the former Greene County Justice Center, located at 1000 N Boonville in Springfield, on Monday, Oct. 17.

The change is one of the first major steps of the Greene County Campus Plan that will renovate and expand existing county facilities.

The former Justice Center was vacated in June of 2022 after the completion of the new Sheriff's Office and Jail located at 5100 W. Division in Springfield.

The former juvenile detention facility, shown in the images below, was constructed in 1991 and is now over thirty years old and is no longer suited for its original purpose.

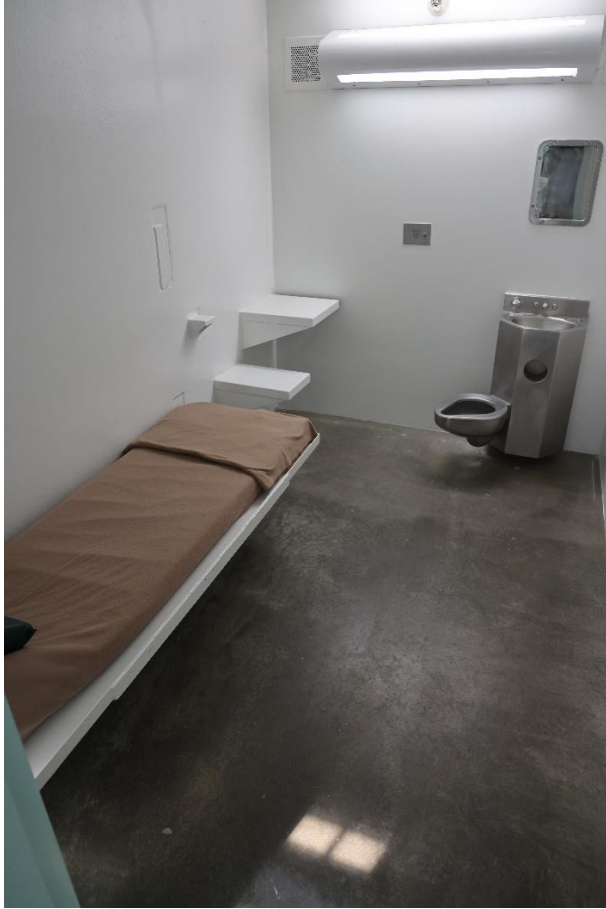


Juvenile Justice and Greene County staff made extensive renovations over several weeks to the former Justice Center's A Pod, to ensure that the new space is suitable for youth in detention.

Safety, security, and privacy modifications have been made to comply with state juvenile detention standards. In addition, all rooms have been converted to single occupancy.



The following images show the newly renovated youth detention center





Springfield Public Schools (SPS) will also be moving its detention classroom into the new location.

“SPS has provided a great deal of assistance in this transition process and we want to thank them for their partnership,” said Bill Prince, Family Court Administrator and Chief Juvenile Officer. “The detention center employs 22 full time and part time employees who are dedicated to the care of the youth we serve. Greene County is thankful for their contribution to the safety and security of our community and our youth.”

Youth detention is very different from an adult jail in both purpose and practice. Average population of the detention facility is seven youth and the average length of stay is 14 days.

However, longer stays are anticipated with the addition of seventeen-year old youth to the court’s jurisdiction, and the requirement that certified youth now be held in detention until they reach the age of 18.

“Many of our citizens may not even realize that we have a secure youth facility in Greene County,” said Julie Austin, Program Manager at the Juvenile Office. “Youth detentions are used for two primary purposes. To ensure the safety of the community when youth are engaged in allegedly dangerous behaviors that may cause harm to the community and/or to ensure youth attend their court hearings if they are considered at risk of absconding.”

The remainder of the Juvenile Office staff, currently located at 1111 N Robberson in Springfield, will move into the former Justice Center after future renovations are complete.

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*Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.*

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