

Information Item

Date: November 9, 2021

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager
Nicholas Geis, Property and Facilities Management Director

Subject:
Information Regarding Security Measures at City Hall and Bryce A. Stuart Facilities

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



City Hall and Bryce A. Stuart are the main, public facing, facilities for professional City staff. The City goes the extra mile to provide a welcoming, open, culture that ensures the citizens of Winston-Salem have free and easy access to City staff. Historically, we have balanced free and open access with multi-layered security measures, anchored by the presence of armed security officers at both facilities.

Within the past twelve to eighteen months, we have seen a rise in violence, volatility, and uncertainty across the country. Vaccines and vaccine mandates have further divided the country and put local government meetings and facilities at the forefront of these raging debates.

During this time, the City has begun implementing several initiatives to increase employee safety, while completing the request for proposal process to ensure our current security measures remain in place. While searching for potential security enhancements, it was discovered that many local governments have implemented metal detection as part of their security protocols.

These budget estimates will assist with determining the feasibility of including metal detection as part of our security protocols for these facilities.