

Pros and Cons of moving into temporary facilities.

In September 2003, the City of Manhattan Beach will begin construction on a new Police/Fire Facility. The new building will be located on land currently occupied by our aging Police and Fire Stations. The decision to move into temporary facilities was not an easy one. A study was conducted to evaluate the pros and cons of moving both police and fire while the new building is being constructed. A significant component of the evaluation included a request for information using the CPCA Research Page. A number of agencies responded to our request and provided valuable information that made the decision to move into temporary facilities easier.

Some of the issues involved with a move into temporary facilities include the need to contract for jail services and firearms training. Fortunately, we have had nothing but positive responses from neighboring agencies willing to help. The agencies that responded to our request suggested a detailed transition plan that will ensure minimal interruption in police services and expedite the move of a 24/7 operation. As a result, we have only interviewed movers with experience in this arena. Detailed plans to cut over phones and communications are being developed. Turning an existing building into a police station is challenging. We will be moving into an older school for two years. Other agencies that have made similar moves shared tips for security, privacy, parking and electrical/data needs.

I would like to thank those agencies that responded to our request for information. Their suggestions and tips helped us make a more informed decision and will undoubtedly make our transition easier.

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