State of Utah

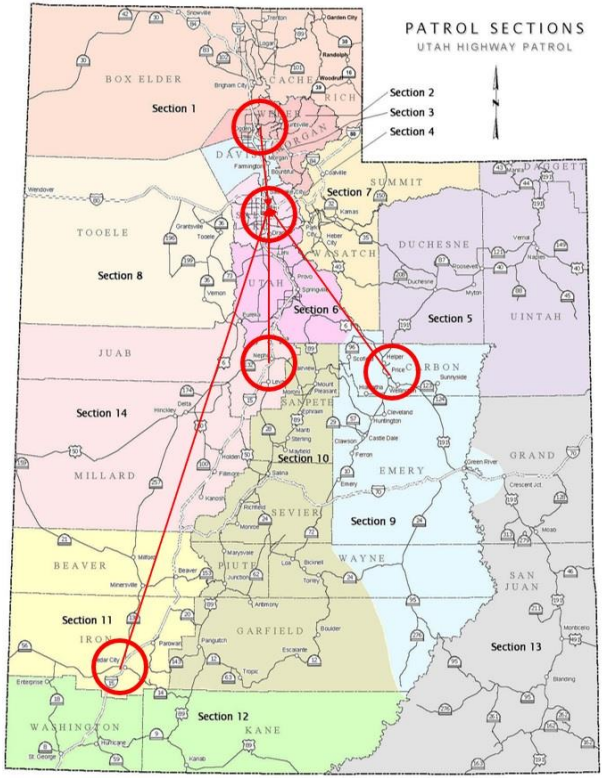
DPS Evidence Warehouse

Infrastructure and General Government
Appropriations Subcommittee
January 25, 2024

Deputy Commissioner Jimmy Higgs
Utah Department of Public Safety

What is the purpose of the DPS Evidence Warehouse?

- The DPS Evidence Warehouse is a property storage location in Salt Lake County
- It is the central facility that processes items that are ready for disposal.
- 8 evidence rooms located throughout the State collect evidence transferring the items to the warehouse either when a case is fully adjudicated or when there is insufficient space at the location.
- Long term storage of biological evidence after testing is complete



Current Constraints

- We are low on available space in the current 7200 sqft leased building
- There are no viable options available to expand the current capacity



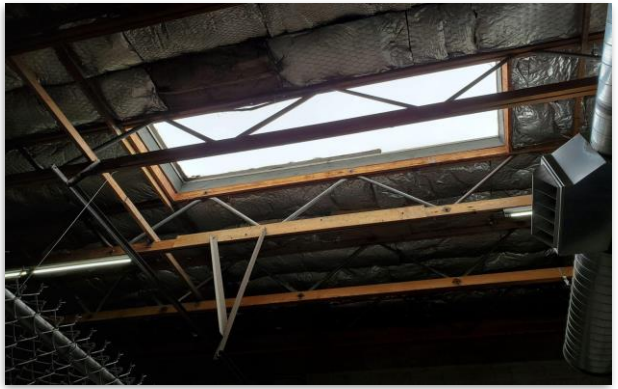






Current Constraints cont...

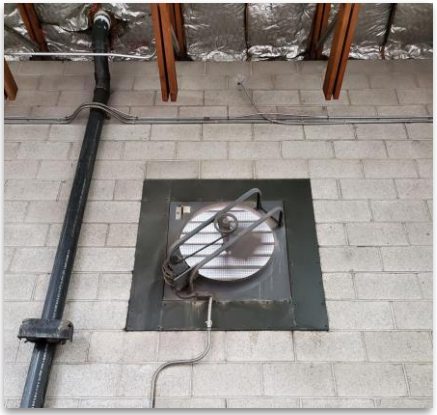
- The building does not meet all recommended security requirements for an evidence facility
- The premise on which the building is located has had several instances of trespassing and property crime
- Ventilation for narcotic storage area is insufficient
- No public accessibility to be able to release property at this facility



Security concerns



Perimeter fence cut many times



Inadequate ventilation



No option to release property to the public

Current Constraints cont...

- Based on historical growth the evidence program increases between 2,000 to 3,000 items per year despite Evidence Technicians staying on top of reviewing cases and disposing of those that are eligible.

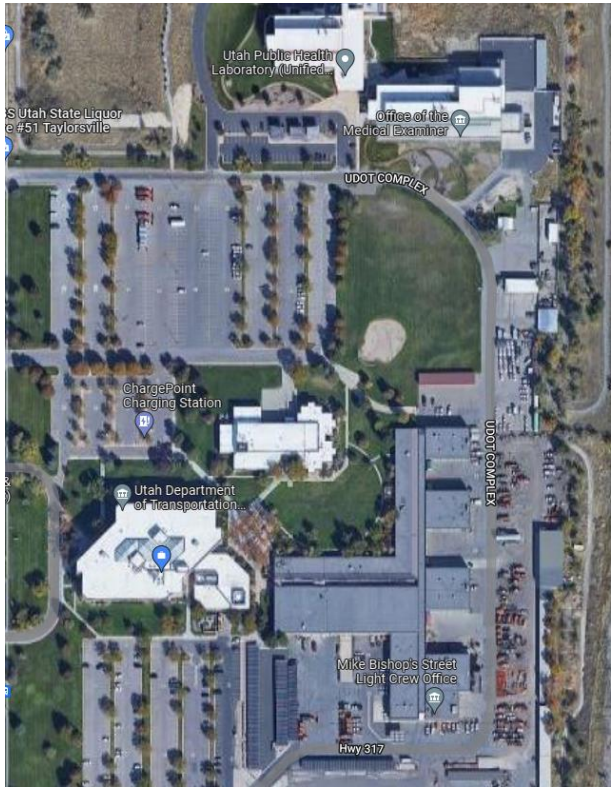
- HB65, which came into effect during May 2022, requires us to hold evidence associated with violent felonies for a longer duration.

- The overall trend leans toward an increase in the number and size of items along with the duration they need to be retained and the current warehouse capacity cannot accommodate this.

New DPS Evidence Warehouse Proposal

- 19,080 Sq. Ft. Evidence Building
- Purpose-built in compliance with the International Association of Property and Evidence standards
- Property release area accessible to the public
- To be constructed on a site at the Calvin Rampton complex
- Estimated Project Cost $17,500,000 one time.
- Operation and Maintenance $50,000 Annually – DPS has the ongoing budget to cover ongoing O&M costs.

Proposed Location on Calvin Rampton Campus





If a New DPS Evidence Warehouse is Approved

- It will enable DPS to fulfill a fundamental obligation to retain evidence in a secure manner in an environment that preserves its evidentiary integrity.
- Increase operational efficiency with proximity to the State Toxicology Lab, Crime Lab, DPS HQ and an existing vehicle lot
- Improved our ability to serve the members of the public



State of Utah

DPS Evidence Warehouse

Questions?