



Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Sheriff C. T. Woody, Jr.



NEWS RELEASE

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SHERIFF WOODY AND STAFF RECOGNIZED AT ARCHITECTURE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS

Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr. and members of his staff were recently invited to present at The American Institute of Architects (AIA) detailing the Sheriff's efforts to help foster a cultural shift in the way and manner jail inmates are incarcerated. The AIA's Academy of Architecture for Justice National Conference was held in Saint Louis, Missouri, November 5-7, 2014. At the conference, Sheriff Woody and Colonel Roy Witham received high praise for their presentations which helped to spotlight the Richmond City Justice Center (RCJC), and the changes they were able to implement in comparison to other jails around the world. Presentations were also given by HOK, the Architectural firm which designed the RCJC.



According to Sheriff Woody, "From concept to reality we worked with the architects and builders to make sure that Richmond received a state-of-the-art facility unlike any other – and one based on the idea that offenders can be rehabilitated when given the right tools." He continued, "In the past, most jails were built to simply warehouse offenders. We think that whatever time someone spends in Richmond should be productive. We want to take away every excuse for recidivism, and the design of the facility certainly plays a role."

Indeed, nearly every feature of the new RCJC was designed with rehabilitation in mind. From the floor plan, to security controls, to how and when meals are provided, to visitation procedures – everything is designed to cut down on movement and allow greater access and more time for offenders to participate in education, job skill training, counseling and rehabilitation, and religious programs.

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by providing faith-based and community-based programming that empowers ex-offenders to become productive members of society.