



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **Thursday, March 02, 2006**

Homeland Security Guards NN Courts

Air travelers have become accustomed to them. Now they are becoming a familiar sight for anyone visiting Circuit Court or Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in downtown Newport News. Deputies with the Newport News Sheriff's Office have a new deterrent to help fight crime inside the courtroom.

Homeland Security money paid for the new safeguards. Two new X-Ray machines have been purchased. One sits at the entrance to each court. They are capable of detecting weapons, explosives and narcotics. The routine now is to place your bags, purses, brief cases and loose items on the conveyer belt and walk through a metal detector. The metal detectors have been here for over two decades. It is the Dynavision X-Ray devices that are new.

Prior to having the X-Ray machines, sheriff's deputies would pat down coats, look inside purses and brief cases, etc. There was always a danger lurking inside. Those dangers can range from hazardous materials to weapons. For example, in this day and age of HIV, you wouldn't even want to get pricked by a needle, let alone cut by a knife or box cutter.

These new machines eliminate dangers to deputies. They also help guard other people who work or visit the courts.

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For more information on cost and time frame of installation or additional concerns, contact Kathleen Carey, PIO at 926-8747 or 813-6139.