



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jim Kreuser, County Executive

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News Release

County Executive Jim Kreuser and Ric Schmidt, president and CEO of United Hospital System Inc., today announced a partnership that allows the county to lease autopsy facilities at United's Kenosha Medical Center Campus.

Under the plan, the county will move toward closing the medical examiner office and autopsy space at the old Brookside Care Center building. Kreuser said the goal is to have the autopsy facilities ready by about Oct. 1 at the Kenosha campus location, 6308 8th Ave. The Medical Examiner Offices will be relocated to the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Road, at the north entrance.

“This collaborative effort between the county and United Hospital System is a win-win-win for the County Government, the taxpayers and United,” Kreuser said.

“The cost savings to taxpayers will be significant and we keep high quality services in the county without having to build a \$4 million to \$5 million facility,” Kreuser said.

“I truly appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Schmidt and his team to work with us on this important public-private partnership,” Kreuser said.

Schmidt noted, “No other location offered the intrinsic benefits that the United facility offered. The already existing autopsy facility, the twenty-four/seven access in a secure facility and the proximity to laboratory facilities for tissue examination and other testing all offered unique economies of scale for the county.” Schmidt also noted that autopsies not mandated by the state or county have become very infrequent. As a result, the autopsy facilities at United's Kenosha campus have become infrequently utilized.

“This is a great opportunity for collaborating with county government. This plan affords the county to significantly reduce its operating costs to maintain these necessary services. It also affords United the opportunity to have these areas of the hospital campus utilized to greater capacity,” Schmidt said.

Kreuser also announced that Dr. Mark Witeck will be returning to Kenosha County as forensic pathologist and chief medical examiner.

Witeck, a Pleasant Prairie resident, served as the county's forensic pathologist and chief medical examiner from 1990 to 1998. In his more than 20 year career as a forensic pathologist, he has performed more than 5,000 autopsies, including 500 homicide cases.

Dr. Mary Mainland announced earlier this summer that she would be leaving the county to take a job in Tampa, Fla. Dr. Mainland's last day with the county is Sept. 5.

"We appreciate Dr. Mainland's years of service to Kenosha County and wish her the best in her career in Tampa," Kreuser said.

The County Board will be asked to confirm the appointment of Dr. Witeck and to approve the lease with United Hospital System.

"We explored the possible options when we looked at how to address Medical Examiner services in the county. By partnering with United, bringing back Dr. Witeck and moving the offices to the Job Center, we meet the needs of the general public, law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, area funeral homes and we do it in the most cost effective manner," Kreuser said.