

Case Study

# INSTALLING A COMPLETE SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Downers Grove Police Department | Downers Grove, IL



## DOWNERS GROVE PD

### *Uncommon Solutions for Promoting Cohesion*

The word community can refer to both the individuals within a certain geographic area, as well as the sense of belonging they feel from being a part of that space. Always building upon the latter to support the former, city administrators in Downers Grove, Illinois, looked to bring three of its community support entities together and under one roof.

Envisioned as a gathering place where members of the community can feel comfortable accessing vital resources and information, the new 80,900 SF, two-story multi-use municipal building is the home of Village Hall, the Police Department, and the administrative offices of Downers Grove Grade School District 58. The combined facility, completed in early 2025, features modern workspaces that allow for efficient and effective interactions between employees and community members.

**Downers Grove PD is a nationally accredited agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).**





## A Turnkey Solutions Project

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The plan to deliver an updated facility for its police force had been on the Village's agenda for nearly two decades. Building on the goal of creating a welcoming environment for its officers, staff, and visitors, the police department looked to its local Spacesaver distributor to offer functional storage solutions across its facility. Our local rep worked with Village administrators throughout the project's funding stage, and once secured, was able to deliver a plan with the project's architect - FGM Architects - to bring comfort and order to the law with Spacesaver's specialized Public Safety storage solutions.

Outfitting key spaces from the locker room to the break room, evidence processing, and gear storage, the look and feel of Spacesaver's products fit seamlessly into the overall modern aesthetic and streamlined functionality of the new facility. More than just lockers, these innovative solutions will offer long-term value and support the efficient functionality of the department, as well as visitors and staff to the other two entities in the space.



## Putting A Lock On Safety and Efficiency

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A growing trend in public safety, in addition to many other industries, centers on the growing shift from traditional keyed locks to keyless digital locks, which are designed to bring access and resource tracking to the locker's face.

Knowing that Downers Grove PD wanted to stay on top of the latest advancements and streamline its locker assignment and equipment tracking processes, our local rep recommended they include digital keyless locks on all their incoming lockers. With these in place, department administrators could dramatically reduce lost time spent searching for missing keys and deliver a more efficient way to share certain lockers across their three shifts.

Let's take a look at the storage solutions our local rep provided the department, each designed and outfitted to address the unique needs of their users throughout the facility.



## DOWNERS GROVE PD



### ***Locker Rooms***

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Recruitment and retention are two key focuses of any police department. A well-outfitted locker room can be much more than a place for employees to store their stuff, as it can contribute significantly to the well-being of its officers by offering a dependable location for them to transition from being on- and off-duty.

Wanting to help the department hold competitive advantage over neighboring precincts, our rep focused on creating a design and feel for the men's and women's locker rooms that emphasizes comfort and relaxation, in addition to increased access and functionality.

"From our officers to our Honor Guard, the user workflow has been increased immensely with these lockers," said Bill Budds, Support Services Manager, Village of Downers Grove.

Because the department's officers have varying requirements for gear storage, each locker room features multiple sizes of FreeStyle® Personal Storage Lockers and is laid out for the most efficient and effective use.. The men's room includes 98 total lockers: 9 smaller and 89 larger. The women's room includes 29 total lockers: 15 smaller and 14 larger.

To reduce misplaced items and dust accumulating on top of the lockers, we installed sloped tops. Additional features of the lockers include 20 Amp power outlets for charging personal and professional items, Ojmar OTS® Advance digital keyless locks, an adjustable shelf with integral garment hanger, hooks, boot tray, armor rack, 48" access height for ADA, louvers for ventilation, wood bench drawer, and a 12" H modular shelf.

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## ***Gear and Duty Lockers***

Strategically located in a corridor between the break room and roll call room, is a bank of 72 Gear and Duty Lockers. These versatile storage units are used to provide quick access to and secure storage of all items needed – ranging from riot gear to weather-related supplies and more – to get officers in, out, and on the road.

To increase security and ease of access for users and assignment tracking for administrators, the Gear and Duty Lockers are outfitted with Ojmar OTS® Advance locks. This feature allows them to be utilized by multiple users on various shifts without the need to issue and track keys. Not only that, but officers can quickly access their gear with a code specifically assigned to them.

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## DOWNERS GROVE PD

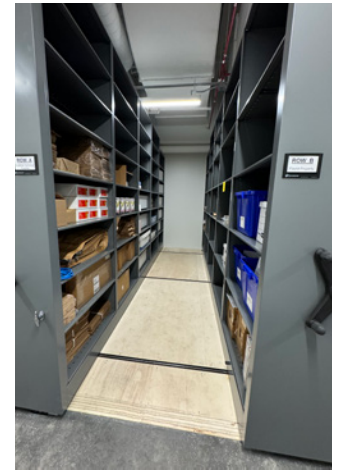


### Evidence Lockers

Having the ability to quickly process evidence of all shapes, sizes, and forms was a major focus of the department when establishing its list of must haves for the new facility. Located in close proximity to the department's holding area, is a bank of Pass-Thru Evidence Lockers for supporting efficient and secure processing. With these, officers can enter the evidence into an assigned locker on one side, while an evidence technician on the other side utilizes a back door to retrieve and process said evidence. This reduces the amount of touches and limits access to just the presenting officer and the assigned technician. Addressing ever increasing advancements in digital evidence, four of the locker compartments have been outfitted with USB ports for keeping suspects' devices powered.

Boosting tracking and accessibility, two of the lockers in the bank are outfitted with Ojmar OCS® Pro locks to allow for crash/temporary holding and passback capabilities for evidence processing and management.

For materials that require temperature control, six of the lockers are refrigerated to ensure evidence remains as close to the state it was collected as possible.



### HDMS Evidence Storage

Within the evidence lab space, the department utilizes our high-capacity RaptorRAC® Widespan shelving mounted on 10 rows of High-Density Mobile Shelving (HDMS) with Mechanical Assist controls to maximize capacity and optimize space. Supporting boxes and totes of all sizes, as well as gun cases and other miscellaneous evidence, the shelving can be adjusted to fit current needs and reconfigured for the future.

Further highlighting our ability to customize systems to the exact space they will inhabit, the height of shelving in the back of each carriage was adjusted to account for overhead pipes.



#### SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

A major consideration for the design of the municipal building was to include sustainable elements such as rainwater cisterns, photovoltaic panels, material selection and landscaping improvements. By utilizing Spacesaver's sustainably manufactured and long-lasting solutions, the department is able to contribute to the community's environmental conservation efforts for years to come.



## Holding Room Lockers

Day Use Lockers with Ojmar OCS® Pro locks and USB ports were added to the holding room for temporarily securing detainees' personal items. Two of the nine lockers are equipped with USB ports to support evidence that must be kept charged to maintain a state that is as close as possible to what it was collected in.

Mounted above open cubby space consisting of Day Use Locker frames without doors, the lockers (presented in three different configurations to fit materials of varied sizes) include multiple hooks to help in preserving evidence.



## Fitness Lockers

As Downers Grove PD is located in a facility that also houses the local school district and the Village of Downers Grove, there is a strong need for versatile and secure storage in the common access hallways near restrooms and building gym facilities for tenants to store personal belongings when using shared amenities.

Unlike many of our storage solutions in the building, these lockers will be checked out randomly rather than assigned. Knowing this, our rep paired twenty 36" H by 12" W Day Use Lockers with Ojmar OCS® Pro digital keyless locks, which allow for users to create a unique access code for each session and boost accessibility and security for users.



## Custodian Lockers

Allotted for the facility's maintenance staff and located within their dedicated break room, the grouping of six durable, 18-gauge steel Day Use Lockers are outfitted with Ojmar OCS® Pro locks for ease of access and increased security and tracking. Within the 72" H x 18" W lockers, are multiple hooks for securely storing personal belongings as well as uniforms and equipment, allowing users to quickly access the materials to get the job done and transition back to their home life. The tops of the lockers are sloped for easier cleaning, as well as to reduce the opportunity for items to get misplaced when placed out of sight on top of the locker.

## ***Connect with the Experts in Evidence Storage***

With more than 50 years in business, Spacesaver's law enforcement consultants understand the vital importance of proper evidence storage. Our in-house engineers and project managers team up with our network of local distributorships to serve hundreds of agencies, large and small, throughout the U.S. and Canada. We can help plan your project, install Spacesaver products, and provide ongoing service.

Contact us today to learn how we can help increase storage capacity and preserve evidence at your facility.

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