

CASE STUDY



AT 100% CAPACITY, THE SOUTH ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S EVIDENCE VAULT NEEDED TO FIND 50% MORE SPACE

It's a secure room that stores evidence. If the evidence pertains to a homicide, it remains in the vault forever... otherwise, it's stored for various amounts of time. The South Elgin Police Department's Property Room was at 100% capacity...and then some.

The Public Works Department initially built some storage shelves and a locked cabinet. But that was back in 2008. The configuration wasn't effective anymore with an aisle of storage on either side of a long table in the middle of the room. **Evidence was piling up. The cramped space and poor lighting was making it time-consuming to find evidence when requested.**

Evidence Officer Jennifer Miklitsch started the process of finding a company to help with the storage issue. It wasn't until a law enforcement conference that she met Ken Pahlke, "Mr. Storage" of Ellis Systems.

Ken's design exceeded all other competitors. He configured the space to include: high density mobile storage, a highly-secure locked cabinet for drugs & jewelry, modular shelving, and oversized storage shelves for large, bulky evidence. The configuration included a large worktable, with supply shelves wall-mounted above the work area and in an open corner.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN

The evidence officers began the process of sorting through evidence associated with various cases.

There were some items approved for elimination and the remaining items needed to be sorted, categorized, labeled, and stored in the new system.

The installation only took a week to complete. Officers in charge of the project chose a blue-gray storage unit with dark gray bins. Evidence-related art hung throughout gave the room an impressive look.

The South Elgin Police Department approved other improvements including lighting and flooring, making it a **clean, modernized, highly-functional evidence vault.** The last step in the process was to put away evidence—which was quickly done with plenty of space to process and store all the items.

"This is what we really needed...double the storage within the same space."

- Officer Jennifer Miklitsch, South Elgin Police Dept.



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