

## Multnomah County OKs deal for justice center site in Gresham

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*Multnomah County commissioners approved a \$3.5 million deal today to buy a 3.6-acre site in Gresham for the planned East County Justice Facility.*

The county is still negotiating to buy two adjoining properties, expected to bring to 4.38 acres the total size of the site at Southeast 185th Avenue and Stark Street.

Mike Sublett, who leads the county's real estate transaction team, said those talks involve willing sellers, and he is confident the additional land needed for the 70,000-square-foot facility will soon be secured, allowing the project to be started next year.

Sublett said the full site, once acquired, will be the largest of those considered, offers the most design flexibility and will not require relocating homes.

After years of wrangling over possible sites, Commissioner Lonnie Roberts, who represents east county and has championed the project for the past three years, said: "We had an absolutely superb location drop in our laps."

The \$14.3 million structure would house four to six courtrooms, a county sheriff's office branch, a Gresham police office and other support services. The total facility cost, including land, is estimated at \$18.6 million, covered by the sale of surplus county property and an expected \$2 million contribution from Gresham.

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