

## **Northglenn Justice Center**

Category 4: Best Building Project – Specialty Contractor (Under \$2 Million)

Horizon Glass & Glazing Co.

Once deemed by Life Magazine as “The most perfectly planned community in America” the little town of Northglenn is known for its easily accessible recreational facilities, sprawling trails and parks, not to mention, its expansive growth. Hidden within the lower levels of the city’s aging municipal court and administrative facilities, the Northglenn Police Department stands in stark contrast to the cities pristine image. The small, tight quarters have long outlived their use value in terms of efficiency: officers housed in ‘converted’ closets, equipment moved and stored in the facilities only sallyport (needed for police cars to park while taking someone into custody) or dumped in mobile containers in the parking lot. A needs assessment study conducted in 2014 found 15 code violations impeding its efficiency and found over 100 instances where the building was out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The jail itself does not meet federal standards necessitating that juveniles are prevented from any visual or verbal contact with adult inmates. Put simply, “We moved this egg carton around so many times, and it still only holds 12 eggs” said by Police Chief, Jim May. Former Mayor Joyce Downing has contributed, “There is truly a need for a new facility for the police department and courts in the city of Northglenn. A great deal of thought and planning have gone into the development of the Justice Center, which will serve the residents of our city well for many years to come.”

Enter: Horizon Glass

Having worked with the General Contractor on several recent successful projects, Horizon Glass was contracted by FCI Constructors Inc. to perform the glass & glazing installation especially for Northglenn’s brand new Justice Center. The brand new 47,000 square foot facility was carefully designed to blend the Police Department’s modern needs and security requirements while retaining an image that bore a true representation of the Northglenn Community. The exterior glass was central to conveying that design. The *EFCO 5600 Enhanced Curtain Wall Thermally Improved System* wraps around the building giving the entire design the shape of a giant eagle when viewed overhead. The *Viracon Solar Blue* specialized tint on the glass is Low E for

effective temperature control, and the color is reminiscent of the uniforms donned by our 'boys in blue'. Level 3 bullet resistant glass had to be used in both the Clerks and Public Service Counters while Level 3 detention glass was used in all the holding cells.

These types of specialty glass required for the facility's heightened security needs took longer lead times to get (10-12 weeks) which meant that having to re-order glass that may have been mistakenly ordered in an incorrect size or color would cost the project much more than just dollars. So, early coordination & teamwork were invaluable in getting the job done right and ensuring that we stayed on schedule. From the very beginning, during the pre-planning stages, we worked to make sure all our labor scheduling and scope were lined up and done correctly. Being so diligent early on in the process allowed us to propose design changes that would benefit the customer and community by providing them with a more air and watertight curtainwall system. We also committed to field verifying all necessary window openings, in conjunction with guaranteed openings by FCI for size prior to fabricating any of our framework, which ensured we would have no down time at all when we arrived on site.

Doing all of our pre-fabrication in-house was a massive undertaking and would not have been possible without the recent purchase and implementation of our Elumatec SBZ 628 Profile Machining Center. This state of the art machine is relatively new to the North American Market (there are currently less than 20 in use within the entire continent) but it possesses nearly unlimited possibility to the glazing industry in terms of fabrication. Not only does it enable much greater accuracy and efficiency but it automates the pre-fab process, ensuring precise and consistent results can be replicated when needed for drilling, cutting, and milling multiple stock lengths. Multiple Stock lengths can be fabricated in sequence, lending itself to greater productivity and efficiency. In addition, the machine works in conjunction with our Logikal software, optimizing and labeling stock length profiles, making it easily programmable for in-house use. This was used in all fabrication for the Northglenn Justice Center and was particularly helpful when it came to fabricating the slightly more difficult segmented pieces on the front weapons screening vestibule, as well as the semi-circular portion in the back.

The excitement and enthusiasm for this project could only be described as palpable!

Departmental employees would commonly walk through while construction was taking place and even official tour groups were organized so that citizens all over the community could come and see the wonderful progress being made. Donned in both his badge and uniform, the police chief was out there almost daily, carefully walking the site and providing input. At one point he excitedly expressed to our lead man onsite, Oleg Tyevs, just how many people were admiring the building while driving down I25 and how he believed this to be the best looking project in Northglenn. The Mayor of Northglenn, herself, Joyce Downing, came to view the project and express her appreciation for its impact on the community. On the city of Northglenn's own website, they even have set up a link to a live feed where people can watch the construction of the project. The webpage has also added regular updates as each new phase came underway. The site emphasizes the true importance of this new facility to the community, stating "we are creating a landmark – one residents and travelers will identify as being with the city of Northglenn".

Those expectations did not go unfulfilled.

In addition to providing the extra needed space and functionality for the Police Department, the new Northglenn Justice Center facility now also contains the municipal court offices and hearing rooms, an emergency communications center, as well as community spaces to use when needed. It contains brand new SMART technology features which include set points for temperature, solar panels, and light sensors. The building, itself, contains over 16,000 feet of glass and those large windows flood the interior with natural light and give way to picturesque mountain views, while providing the heightened protection the justice center needs. A strategic kickoff has been planned for 9/11, where the officers alongside the entire community will be able to take part in the ceremony and tour the building. The Northglenn Justice Center stands as a tribute to both the local Police and the Northglenn community, symbolized by the vintage police Harley that proudly stands in the front vestibule area. In a current political climate that is still rife with distrust and dispute over the state of our police force, it seems a rare opportunity for a community to be able to come together over a police building, and Horizon is beyond proud to provide the City of Northglenn with a window to see it.











