



**Future need for call boxes in Milwaukee at the June 28, 2007
Public Safety Committee in Room 301-B of City Hall
Gerard Froh DPW – Administration**

The various uses of call boxes including the value or lack of value of this device.

The City of Milwaukee has been installing and maintaining call boxes since about 1870. At one time there were approximately 4000 call boxes in the City. There were 'red' call boxes for fire alarms and 'blue' Police call boxes. In the mid 1980's most of the red call boxes were eliminated or converted to 'blue' police call boxes. The Fire Department requested the elimination of their call boxes because of problems associated with false fire alarms. There are currently about 1300 call boxes in service. The primary users of the telephone function in the call boxes are police employees and school crossing guards. A few call boxes have a second "municipal" phone for the use of DPW and other non-MPD affiliated organizations. Both types of phones connect to the Police Department telephone switch over City copper.

Annual costs of purchase and installation of new call boxes.

There is no funding to expand the number of call boxes. However approximately 50 call boxes annually are either damaged or must be relocated because of City or private construction activity. The costs associated with relocation are billed to the responsible party – if there is one available.

Annual costs of maintenance, repair and painting of call boxes.

Project	2005	2006
replacement	21,631.76	14,203.12
repair/maintenance	52,871.86	72,397.00
Total	74,503.62	86,600.12

This would not include costs billed to contractors and accidents. The repair and maintenance cost include trouble shooting circuits that may pass through call boxes but not necessarily be part of the call box telephone. These costs represent phone maintenance problems which can be as simple as a phone off the hook causing other phones on the same circuit not to function, bad phones, finding cable problems and physical damage. When a knockdown occurs due to an accident DPW will try to bill the individual and/or their insurance for the costs.

Are call boxes a source of graffiti?

Yes they are tagged fairly frequently, less than stop signs but more than electric control panels. It is estimated that the annual cost of cleaning and repainting call boxes and combination posts is about \$11,000.

Relationship of call boxes to City of Milwaukee's underground copper cabling system.

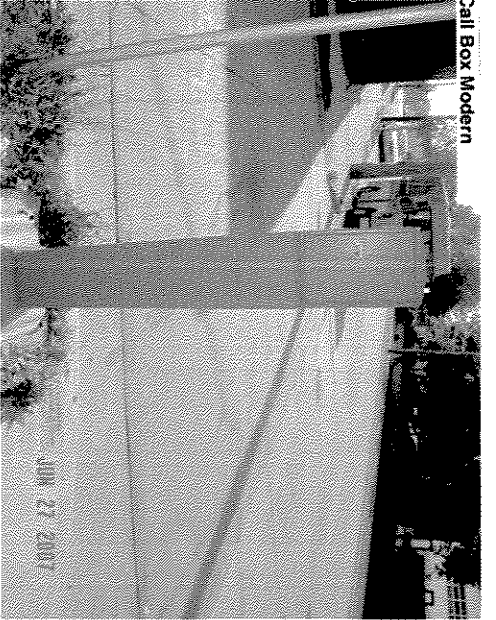
Over 1000 of the remaining "call boxes" also serve as distribution points or "combination post" for the City copper infrastructure. This is similar to the local telephone company

infrastructure seen along the City streets. They have various sizes and shapes of green plastic or metal encasements that distribute their telephone and data services over their copper infrastructure to the public. The City copper infrastructure serves the Police and City telephone systems, as well as provides circuits for the radio system, SCADA systems, traffic control, security, facility management, street lighting control and even data networking via DSL. There are over 575 unique cables providing almost 22,000 circuits. Many of these cables or at least portions of the cables extend out of the conduit system to the nearest combination post facilitating the cross-connection of separate cables to minimize cable length or provide telephone service to a call box.

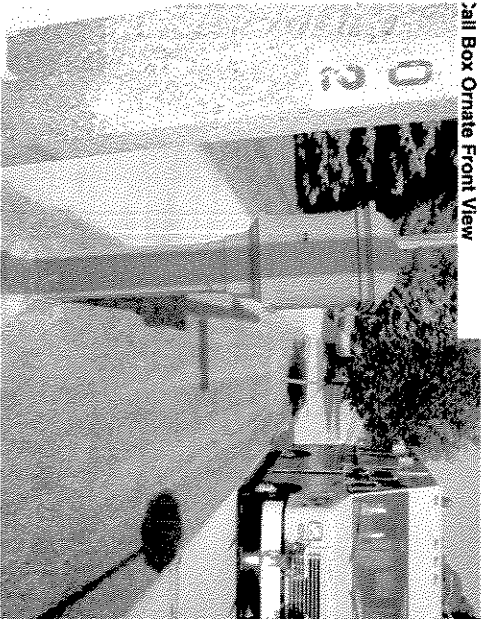
Estimates of cost of a planned phasing out of call boxes and any cabling presence.

Call box could be replaced with what is called a “combination post” that does not contain an emergency telephone just houses the cross connects for the City’s copper cabling system for approximately \$2,500. The combination post would be in the same location as the call box but approximately 4 feet high. The cost to relocate all the wiring at a location and eliminate the call box and any cabling presence would start at about \$5,000 depending on the location and rewiring costs. To remove all call boxes it would cost about \$3,500,000 to \$7,500,000. It would require considerable analysis to get a more definitive cost estimate. Approximately, 300 of the call boxes do not serve any other function except providing a telephone for Police. The cost of eliminating these could be significantly less.

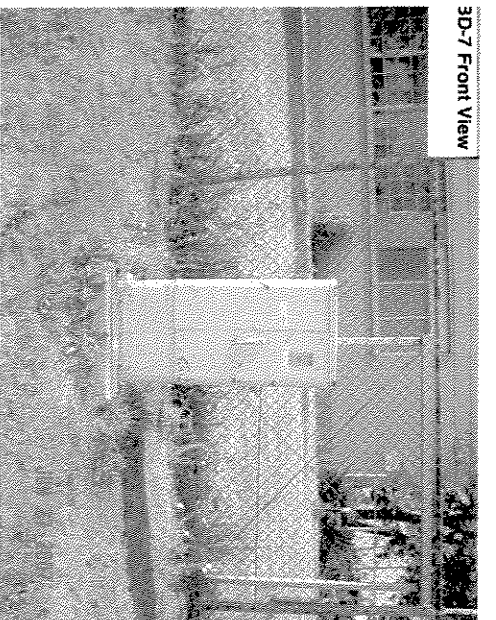
Jail Box Modern



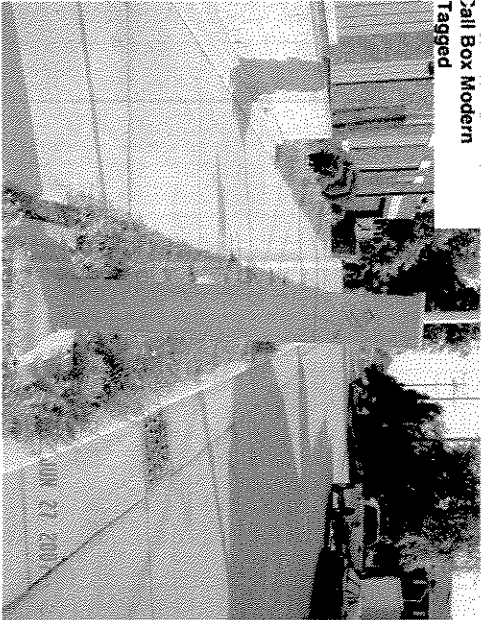
Jail Box Ornate Front View



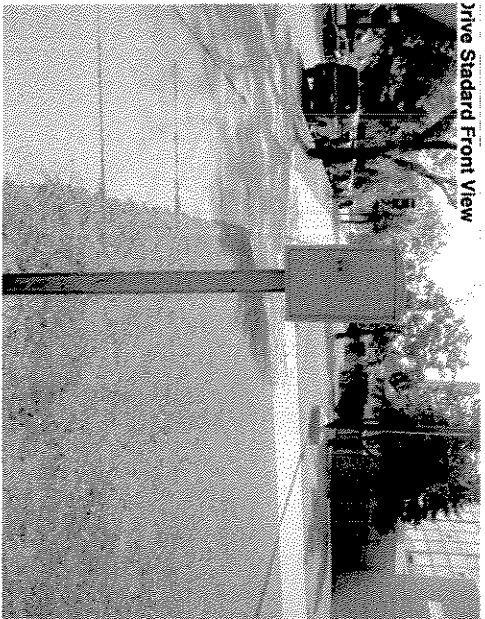
3D-7 Front View



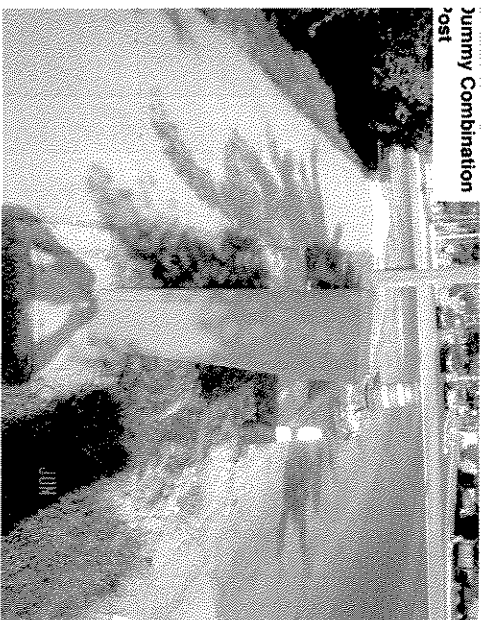
Jail Box Modern Tagged



Jive Stadar Front View



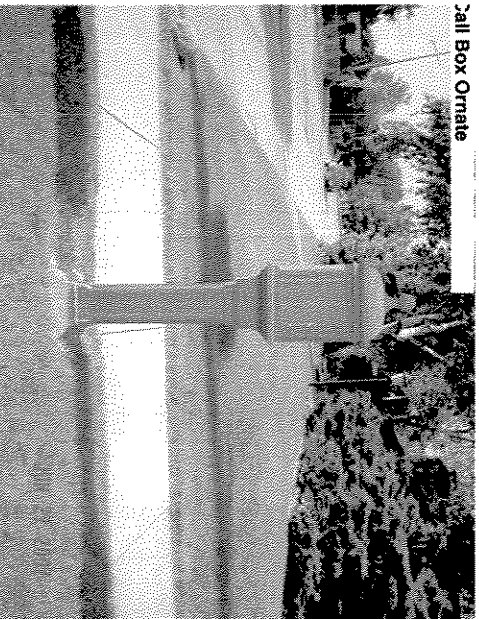
Jummy Combination Post



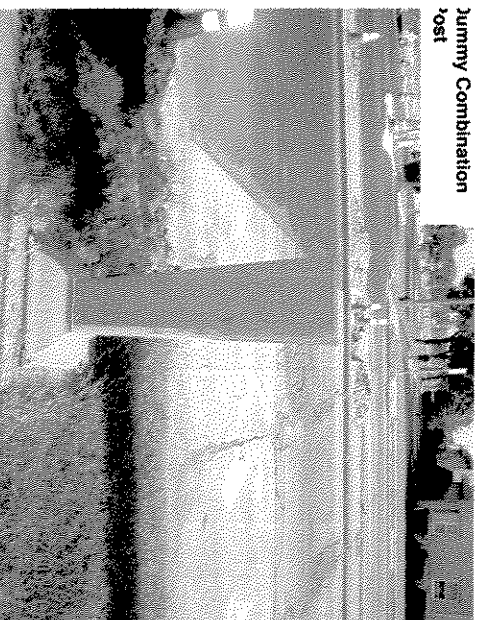
3D-4 Front View

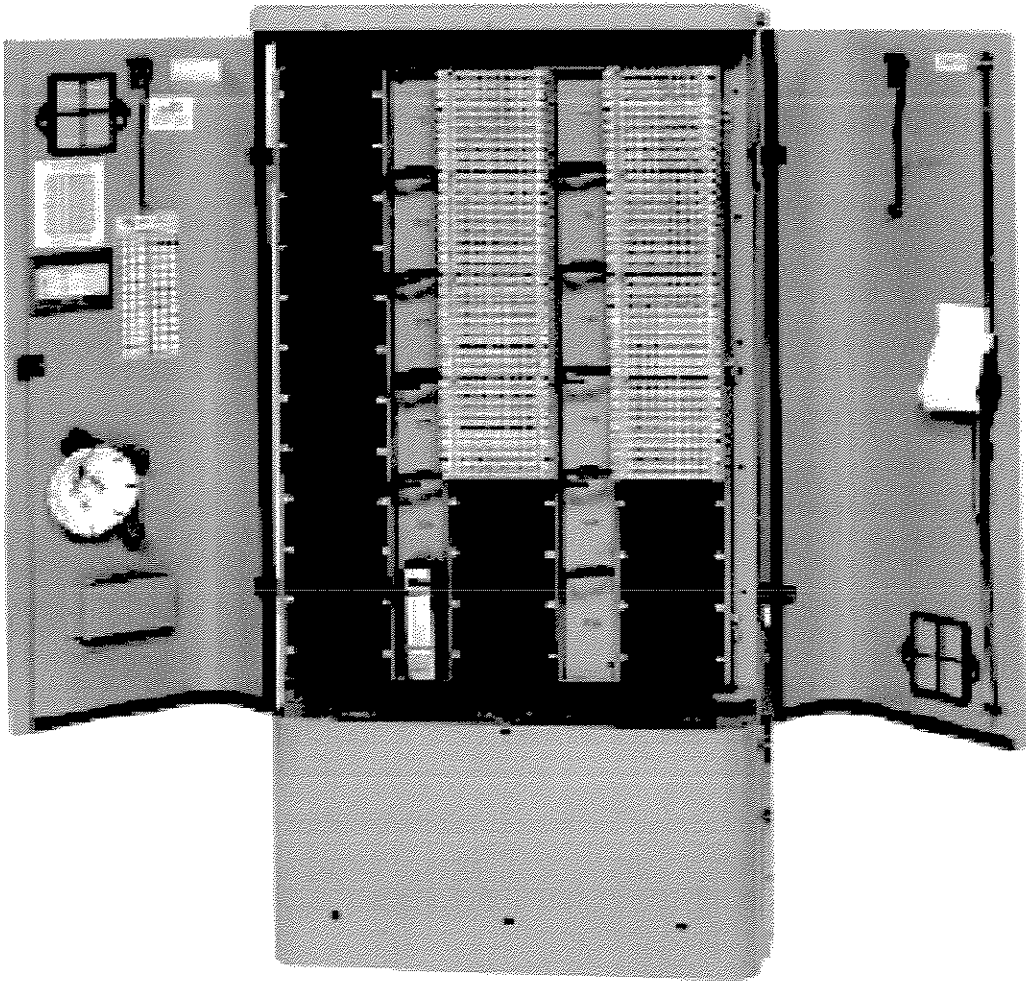


Jail Box Ornate

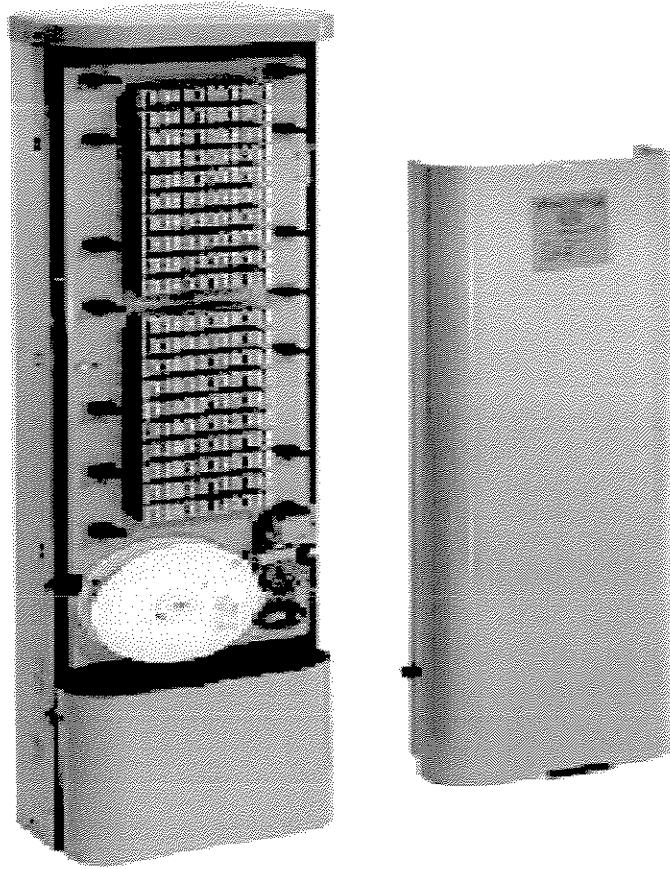


Jummy Combination Post





ECQF 400-PR. Cross-Connect Cabinet



**LC 200-PR RLS Cross-Connect Closure
Shown with Lift-Off Cover Removed**