



ORLANDO CITY HALL TAKES STEPS TO TIGHTEN SECURITY

ORLANDO, Fla. -- In the wake of a shooting rampage at Gateway Center in 2009, the city of Orlando has tightened security at City Hall.

A new system has been put in place to identify and track visitors who come to the building. Any visitor to Orlando City Hall must go through this process to obtain a temporary photo ID -- even if they just want to use the restroom.

The Gateway Center shootings in November 2009 left one man dead and five others wounded. City officials said the mass shooting prompted the increase in security.

The process to gain entry to City Hall requires scanning a driver's license or typing in a name and birth date.

Guests must also indicate what department they plan to visit. A sticker will be printed that must be worn while inside and returned upon exiting the building.

The LobbyGuard system was approved by Mayor Buddy Dyer and cost taxpayers \$50,000.

"When you're investing in public safety, it's hard to measure those dollars because you don't know what life you have saved or had an impact on that, but I'm always in favor of investing in public safety," Dyer said.

City officials said in the event of an emergency evacuation, they would know who might still be inside the building -- possibly trapped or injured.

Patrons like Constance Lee said they doubt the system will do anything to prevent attacks by armed or dangerous people.

"I think you're still going to need the security, human element," Lee said.

"It might be a false sense of security, but no, if someone is coming through, no one is stopping them," visitor Brady Pevehouse said.

City officials said they'll monitor the new security program and may move add LobbyGuard kiosks to other city-owned buildings.