



Posted on Thu, Sep. 01, 2011

KC chooses site for East Patrol station

By LYNN HORSLEY The Kansas City Star

After months of review, Kansas City officials say they have selected the preferred site for a new East Patrol police station and new crime lab.

The new site will be between 26th street on the north, 27th street on the south, Brooklyn Avenue on the west, and Prospect Avenue on the east.

The new project is expected to consume 12 to 15 acres and will replace an antiquated crime lab and an old police station. It is projected to cost more than \$50 million.

"It's a great investment in the 3rd (Council) District," said Patrick Klein, director of the city's capital projects department.

The site was chosen from 25 potential locations. Key factors in the selection included cost of the land, size and shape of the site, ease of vehicle and pedestrian access, visibility and the opportunity to serve as a redevelopment anchor for areas such as Beacon Hill and the 22-23rd Street revitalization.

But it will have a significant impact on property owners. There are 129 properties on the site, including 33 owner-occupied and many with tenants.

Melba Curls, 3rd District at-large councilwoman, said she was aware that some of the affected residents had lived in their homes for a long time. She said she wants to make sure people are compensated fairly for their properties and able to move without big hassles.

"I hope people will be able to relocate without any obstacles," she said.

The next step is for the city to negotiate with property owners to acquire their land. The city hopes to avoid condemnation, but that is an option in acquiring properties.

The city will hold public meetings at 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. Sept. 7 at Mount Calvary Church of Christ, 2601 Brooklyn Avenue, to provide more information to people whose properties are affected by the project.

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