

From the Kansas City Business Journal

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2013/11/19/construction-begins-east-patrol-campus.html>

Construction begins on long-awaited KCPD East Patrol Division and Crime Lab project

Nov 19, 2013, 3:07pm CST Updated: Nov 19, 2013, 4:49pm CST



[Austin Alonzo](#)

Reporter- *Kansas City Business Journal*

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

Construction on the Kansas City Police Department's long-awaited East Patrol Division and Crime Lab campus is officially underway.

Kansas City officials including Mayor [Sly James](#), Councilman [Jermaine Reed](#) and Kansas City Police Chief [Darryl Forté](#) were present to christen the \$74 million, two-building campus to be built in a 17-acre, four-block area south of 26th Street, north of 27th Street, west of Prospect Avenue and east of Brooklyn Avenue in Kansas City's East Side.

The \$50.5 million worth of construction work is being managed by a joint venture of Kansas City general contractor **JE Dunn Construction** and Kansas City contractor Alexander Mechanical Contractors Inc., [Chris Szeliga](#) said.

Szeliga, who is a project executive on the joint venture, said construction began this week and will continue into the winter as the team grades the land and installs utilities. Construction on the site's two buildings — the new East Patrol Division headquarters and the crime lab building — will start in March 2014 and last through winter 2015. Those two buildings combined will be about 110,000 square feet.

The joint venture is working as a "construction manager at risk" which means that the team will manage construction activities but not self perform work. Szeliga said a multitude of contracts for everything from concrete work to terrazzo floor installation will be out for bid in the coming months. Belton-based J.A. Lillig Excavating Inc. and Kansas City, Kan.-based **Rodriguez Mechanical Contractors Inc.** are already under contract for pre-construction services.

Szeliga said a large amount of the design work is still in progress so the joint venture cannot disclose any renderings of what the complete campus might look like. He did say the joint venture is shooting for LEED certification and plans to re-use building materials from the demolished homes when building up the new campus.

Szeliga said a joint venture of Kansas City architecture firms **Helix Architecture + Design Inc.** and Wellner Architects Inc. are handling design services.

[Chris Hernandez](#), a spokesman for Kansas City, explained the total project budget includes the cost of acquiring the land, completing design services and site preparation as well as construction.

[Emily Fors](#), a spokeswoman for the joint venture, said Kansas City acquired and demolished homes in the [recently rezoned residential area](#). The joint venture recently took possession of the land to begin construction work, Fors said.

Kansas City had to pay to relocate homeowners in the four-block area, Hernandez said. He did not say how much was paid out, but he did say some of those who relocated were present at the groundbreaking ceremony and were happy with the settlement.

Hernandez said Kansas City hopes the project, and [others like it](#), will spur private development in Kansas City's East Side as the increased police presence drives down crime in the area.

Kansas City's East Patrol project has been much-maligned to this point. The project was the centerpiece of a 2010 public safety sales tax campaign and was originally estimated to cost about \$57 million. The [project's budget swelled by \\$17 million](#) due to serious underestimation the cost of the land, relocation, design services and furnishings at the campus. The Kansas City Council [recently approved \\$78 million in "special obligation bonds"](#) to help, in part, pay for the project's cost overruns.

Austin reports about construction, transportation, engineering and architecture.