

Construction on schedule for KCPD's new east side campus

BY: Andres Gutierrez (<mailto:andres.gutierrez@kshb.com>)

POSTED: 1:55 PM, May 13, 2015

UPDATED: 6:41 PM, May 13, 2015

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The walls are up at the Leon Mercer Jordan Campus in Kansas City's east side.

The campus near 26th and Prospect will contain KCPD's new crime lab and East Patrol Division Station.

RELATED | KCPD east patrol campus named after Kansas City civil rights leader

(<http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/kcpd-new-east-patrol-campus-may-soon-have-a-new-name>)

Both facilities are designed to be state-of-the-art to give police more tools to investigate crime.

The facilities

At 57,000 square feet, the new crime lab will be larger than their current aging lab located at 6633 Troost Avenue, which will provide more office and lab space for the department.

With efficiency in mind, the lab building will also receive and store any evidence and property that officers and investigators collect.

Across from the crime lab is the main building where east patrol will conduct day-to-day business.

PHOTOS: Look inside as the facility grows (<http://www.kshb.com/news/news-photo-gallery/building-kcpds-new-crime-lab-and-east-patrol-division-police-station>)

The department has dedicated a room that non-profits and other groups can use to gather as a way to welcome the community.

As with any construction project, this one has had a few minor hiccups.

"We had to switch glazing manufactures because of lead time because of all the construction that's happening in the Midwest, and it was a like a 19-week lead time so that wouldn't work, so we had to go back and restart," Jeff Blaesing, VP of JE Dunn construction said. "But coordination with

manufacturing and design team has gone very smoothly, so we're in a good position to be successful right now."

Community impact

The campus is expected to play a crucial role in the revitalization of Prospect Avenue and the surrounding neighborhoods.

"It's really important to spur economic development on the east side. That's exactly what we're doing. We're also helping with the feeling of safety here knowing that the police are here part of the neighborhood," Chris Hernandez, a KCMO spokesperson said.

There is an emphasis to bring jobs to the area. Ever since crews broke ground, more than 2,000 people have visited the site.

Over 900 of them were asking for jobs, and many of them were referred to job-training programs.

Once construction wraps in the Fall, it will take police about 90 days to move in, primarily because they need to move a lot of large and delicate equipment into the new space.

*Andres Gutierrez can be reached at andres.gutierrez@kshb.com
(<mailto:andres.gutierrez@kshb.com>) .*

Follow him on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AFGutierrez>)

Connect on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/KSHBAndresGutierrez?fref=nf>)

Copyright 2015 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.