



# PRESS RELEASE

Darryl Forté Chief of Police

KC/MO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 1, 2015

**For more information, contact:**

KCPD Media Unit

816-234-5170

## **City celebrates grand opening of new East Patrol Division and Crime Laboratory**

Community members, police and city officials celebrated the grand opening of the new East Patrol Division station and Kansas City Regional Crime Laboratory with tours and a dedication ceremony on December 1.

“The community and our employees deserve these facilities,” Chief Darryl Forté said at the ceremony. “We needed a space where we could interact with and serve the community in this part of town, and now we have it. ... Our employees deserve this, too. More than 210 police officers, scientists, staff and property and evidence technicians will be working on this campus. Before this, none of them has been in a building made to suit their needs.”

Community members who attended the event had the opportunity to tour police facilities not normally open to the public. A showcase space highlighted the many organizations, community members and artists who contributed to the project.

“The design and construction of this campus is an unprecedented investment in the Third District of Kansas City, Missouri,” said Third District Kansas City Councilman Jermaine Reed.

The Crime Lab and East Patrol Division now occupy about 17 acres bounded by 26<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, 27<sup>th</sup> Street on the South, Brooklyn on the west and Prospect Avenue on the east. Work on the project began in 2011. The site previously contained a mixture of residential homes and vacant lots.

East Patrol already is operating out of the new station, and Crime Lab staff and equipment will move into their new building over the course of the first few months of 2016. Residents and businesses throughout East Patrol Division should not expect any change in response times with the change in the station’s location. Officers are dispatched from wherever they are on the streets, not from the station.

Neither the old East Patrol Division station at 27<sup>th</sup> and Van Brunt nor the Crime Lab at 6633 Troost was designed for law enforcement use. The old East Patrol opened in 1951 as a radio station for the City of Kansas City. All city vehicles, including police cars, ambulances, public works trucks and more were dispatched from there on an FM radio band.

- more -

The building was retrofitted to be a police station in 1975. The old Crime Lab moved to several different locations over the years, most recently in the late 1990s to a former pharmaceutical research facility. Conditions there were cramped and unsuited to the demands of forensic science and Kansas City's caseload.

The new East Patrol Division is nearly twice the size of the old one at 36,200 square feet. This includes several spaces for public use, including a gymnasium, computer lab and community room. It was designed with input from officers to improve their efficiency and comfort.

The new Crime Lab will be approximately 57,600 square feet, which is 80 percent larger than the existing facility. The Kansas City Regional Crime Lab is one of only seven labs in the country to be accredited in eight different disciplines by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board. All of these disciplines – from Chemistry to Crime Scene Investigation – now will have a state-of-the-art facility designed exclusively to meet their needs.

KCPD command staff will be working with the City in the next few months to determine whether the department will continue to use the former East Patrol and Crime Lab facilities.

The construction of the new East Patrol Division and Crime Lab was funded by the voter-approved, quarter-cent, public safety sales tax. The cost was approximately \$74 million, which included property acquisition, demolition, design, environmental cost, site prep, construction, furnishings and equipment. Placing both facilities on the same campus saved considerable costs.

The project was designed to serve as a redevelopment catalyst for Prospect Avenue and surrounding neighborhoods. It was governed by HUD Section 3 guidelines.

“There was considerable effort made by the campus team to live up to the City's commitment to leverage the project, to the greatest extent possible, to spark training, job and contract opportunities for Certified Section 3 residents and businesses – which means low or very-low income – as well as to increase participation by certified minority and women business enterprises,” Councilman Reed said.

More than 2,000 people were connected to job training programs and community resources throughout the course of the project. Multiple building projects are now underway in the neighborhood, from a community center to a grocery store.

The campus was designed by Helix Architecture + Design, in association with Wellner Architects. The Construction Management Team Lead was JE Dunn Construction / Alexander Mechanical, A Joint Venture.

The campus features numerous pieces of community-centric artwork. The One Percent for Art piece is by David Dahlquist and RDG Dahlquist Art Studio and contains numerous pieces of pottery created by community members. It is titled “We Are a Bowl: ‘Empty Earthen Vessels Waiting to be Filled.’” A history of African-American members of the Kansas City Police Department is featured on a wall in the community room, and lumber from trees that were removed from the site during demolition forms a mosaic on the community room's opposing wall. In addition, there are two different glazed-brick “quilt” pieces on the façades, or the facilities “front porches” from the result of an art and architecture collaboration between Ms. Sonié Joi Thompson-Ruffin and Helix Architecture + Design.

More information about the project is available in the online press kit at <http://saferkc.com/east/>.

###