

KCPD East Patrol bringing new energy, development to KC's east side

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The new Kansas City Police Department East Patrol is bringing new revitalization to the east side of the city. With a brand-new regional crime lab, station and facilities dedicated for the public.

"The community room, there's also going to be a 24-hour room where citizens are able to come in and use computers," Councilman Jermaine Reed said.

Police are hoping to create a new culture between the public and law enforcement.

Major Sharon Laningham said, "That personal communication between the officers and the community members will foster better relationships and stronger partnerships for the future."

With the future in mind, Morning Star Baptist Church across the street is developing as well.

"Housing, we're planning to do some more buildings as it relates to our youth and family center. This is just the beginning," said Pastor John Modest Miles. "The community is going to come alive simply because of the east patrol and the crime lab."

Other projects in the area:

1. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church's Youth and Family Life Center at 27th & Prospect.
2. New Linwood Shopping Center development that will include a new Sun Fresh Market.
3. MAX bus rapid transit line, similar to what already operates on the Main Street and Troost corridors.

City Architect Eric Bosch said they have seen a similar boost following other projects like this.

"The south patrol project, I believe, really intensified this surge for Cerner to come to the Bannister site and that also happened when we built the academy up on Shoal Creek and the Shoal Creek

police station," said Bosch. <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/kcpd-east-patrol-bringing-new-energy-development-to-kcs-east-side> The Mormon temple has now been built.

Reed added, "We wanted to make sure that we built it in an area where citizens could be proud of it, but one that also showcased and allowed for future development to come."

One of the unique features of the Leon Mercer Jordan Campus, named after the first African-American lieutenant in KCPD, is a timeline.

"From 1874, when the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department was formed, all the way to 2015 and just to be able to see the contributions that African-Americans have made to our Kansas City, Missouri Police Department is remarkable," Reed said.

"To my knowledge, may be the first in the state of Missouri that's named to the memory of an individual," said Bruce R. Watkins, Jr. who advocated for the campus to be named in Jordan's memory. He's looking forward to the rebirth of the neighborhood. "We look forward to not only the economic impact, but the law enforcement impact that it's going to have in the area."

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