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One Percent for Art funds granite piece

HIGHLIGHTS

'To Serve and Protect' will be installed in front of new police station

BY KAREN RIDDER
Special to The News

The new North Patrol Division station for the Kansas City Police Department will include a public art piece designed by a Colorado artist.

Frank Swanson of Swanson Stone, Inc. submitted a granite proposal titled "To Serve and Protect." The Municipal Arts Commission and the Police Board both have approved the proposal, which was selected from a public request for submissions. More than 50 professional artists in the U.S. responded to the initial call over the summer. Four were initially selected and given a stipend to develop further proposals for the space.

City Architect Eric Bosch says the artists were allowed to develop any plan for the art, as long as it was created for a space that would be viewed by the public. The new North Patrol Division Station is already under construction at 10610 NW Prairie View Road near the Kansas City International Airport. It will have

several public areas, but Swanson’s concept is for a large sculpture that will sit in the exterior landscaping and likely be visible from Prairie View Road.

“My sculpture is designed to relate to and reflect the relationship between those who are working in law enforcement and the community they serve and protect,” Swanson wrote when he submitted his proposal.

Money for the sculpture comes from a One Percent for Art program which designates 1 percent of the cost of a new municipal building in the city of Kansas City for public art. More than 40 public art projects in Kansas City have been completed as a part of this program since it became a city ordinance in 1986.

Several One Percent for Art projects are already visible at and around the airport, including the flooring inside the terminals of the airport and the large billboard-like fountain that can be seen clearly near the exit of the airport. The Kansas City Police Academy also has public art funded by this program.

The new North Patrol Division station allotted about \$75,000 for the work. It is expected to be installed near the time of the station’s completion in late spring or early summer 2017.



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