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## New District 3 police HQ a reflection of West Side community

By Kurt Backscheider

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When the city's newest police station opens next summer it will not only serve as Cincinnati Police Department's District 3 headquarters, it will also stand as a representative of 14 West Side neighborhoods.

Construction of the 39,000-square-foot District 3 headquarters, at 2300 Ferguson Road in Westwood, is progressing and expected to be completed in July. District 3 officers will move to the new \$16 million station from their present East Price Hill headquarters on Warsaw Avenue,

which dates to 1908. The historic building on Warsaw is technologically and physically insufficient.

Katherine Keough-Jurs, senior city planner, said the Ferguson Road headquarters is the first new police station the city has built in more than 40 years. City planners worked with community members to determine the site for the new station.

It's more than twice the size of the Warsaw Avenue station and is being built to be a sustainable, energy efficient and environmentally-friendly facility achieving LEED Platinum status. It is designed to generate as much energy as it consumes.

"It's going to be a great facility when it opens," Keough-Jurs said.

Beyond its sustainable design and technological upgrades, the headquarters will also feature community gathering space and art.

A 25-member community advisory team comprised of residents from the neighborhoods the police district covers has been working with the architects and construction team since last fall to help define the public spaces of the building and make decisions regarding artwork.

Members of the advisory team presented their ideas to neighbors during an open house Sept. 8 at Elder High School.

"Because the community had been so involved in the selection of the site for the new headquarters, we also wanted them to be a part of the design and infuse their ideas for the public community spaces," Keough-Jurs said.

Based on input from the advisory team, she said the station will have an exterior plaza featuring 14 columns

representing all the district's neighborhoods and the building will have a rain garden with a community feature.

An artistic map displaying the police district's 14 neighborhoods will adorn a wall inside the station, and she said the map will include images of iconic buildings, parks or public spaces from each neighborhood.

The glass walls of the community room inside the station will also feature notable buildings from each neighborhood, laser-etched into the glass, she said.

"It's an incredibly cool project," she said. "We've never engaged the community to this extent with a public building. This has been such a fantastic process."

Cincinnati's District 3 serves the neighborhoods of East Price Hill, East Westwood, English Woods, Lower Price Hill, Millvale, North Fairmount, Riverside, Roll Hill, Sayler Park, Sedamsville, South Cumminsville, South Fairmount, West Price Hill and Westwood. ■

TOTAL