



News Release

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Construction to Begin on New South Patrol

The Unified Government held a groundbreaking ceremony today to celebrate the construction of a new \$2.25 million South Patrol Division to be built in the Argentine area of Kansas City, Kansas.

Police Chief Terry Ziegler, Mayor Mark Holland, UG Commissioners and representatives from Crossland Construction kicked off construction with the shoveling of dirt at the future site of the new police station to be located at 2100 Metropolitan Avenue; to the east of Walmart.

“Our public safety infrastructure has been neglected for many years, and the South Patrol building will mark a huge step toward addressing that neglect,” says Mayor Mark Holland. “Just as important, it signals our commitment to creating a more efficient and more responsive public safety system in Kansas City, Kansas.”

The new station will replace the South Patrol Division currently located at 2151 South 34th Street. The building was built in 1950 and was modified decades ago to be used as a sub-station. KCK Police Chief Terry Zeigler says the new station will provide additional police services that will engage residents and further support the department’s current community policing efforts.

“The new location will further stabilize the surrounding areas and make officers more visible as they travel through the neighborhoods during their daily patrol,” Zeigler says. “South Patrol will be built with a multi-purpose room. This additional space will be designed for community groups to meet, which will help encourage officer – citizen interactions. This new station truly speaks to the Department’s commitment to community policing.”

The new station will also be equipped with Wifi and downloading capabilities for video when body and car cameras are installed in the future.

South Patrol is one of four patrol stations used by the department. There’s an East, West and Midtown patrol station. South Patrol serves approximately a 27.7 square mile area, which is the second largest patrol division in Kansas City, Kansas. For Commission Ann Murguia, the new station is a much welcomed addition to her district.

“We are excited to see, and have eagerly awaited, today’s groundbreaking for the new southside police substation. This new building will provide our police department with much needed space and upgraded equipment to assure our officers have the resources necessary to carry out their law enforcement duties,” says Murguia. “The 3rd District, and our County, truly appreciates the daily sacrifices and professional work of our police officers in serving and protecting our community.”

The 6,000 plus square feet of space will house about 45 offices and unlike the current station, it is specifically designed for police operations. There will also be a report desk at this location that will provide staffing Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

“The design of the station is a very open concept with a modern feel. Concrete floors and exposed trusses speak to the emphasis on functionality and low maintenance. We believe the design will be ‘in style’ for years to come,” says Ziegler.

“Both this site and the Midtown Patrol at Indian Springs are located in retail centers, making it possible for our police to provide improved customer service and access for our citizens,” Holland said.

The project is being funded through the development Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, which incorporates the land for the new South Patrol facility. Crossland Construction Company, Inc. is the lead general contractor for this construction project.

Background

South Patrol will be constructed on a 9 acre site that was donated to the Unified Government by Argentine Retail Developers, Inc. (ARD). Before the acquisition of the property by ARD, the land was previously occupied by a smelting and refining facility from 1880 to 1901. A steel fabrication plant acquired the facility from 1907 until 1984. The land was remediated for soil contamination by the EPA in 1993.

Abandoned and underutilized properties present a significant barrier to future economic development for many cities. These properties blight neighborhoods and represent potential environment hazards for local residents. By cleaning up these properties, local municipalities can protect the environment while transforming these properties into viable commercial sites that spur economic growth and create jobs.

The UG has been working closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to help turn underutilized sites like these into success stories for our community. The EPA approved construction and operation of the new South Patrol Division on this site.

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