

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Police District 3 Location Identified** ***Central Location Improves Police Service to 14 Neighborhoods***

Today, City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. announced that the City of Cincinnati has selected a location for the first new police station to be built in the city in more than 20 years. The new police station will serve the City's police District 3, which encompasses 14 neighborhoods on the city's Westside. A parcel at 2300 Ferguson Road in Westwood was selected because it is located in one of the three high-call neighborhoods, it is available for development, it rated high on constructability, and because it provides physical accessibility for service to all 14 neighborhoods in District 3. (Please see the attached maps). Finally, this site is consistent with *Plan Cincinnati*, the City's comprehensive plan, because it is located within one of the Centers of Activity, places where the community envisions main streets of civic life surrounded by residential areas. The Administration expects that this new district headquarters can play a role in driving additional development and helping to redefine the surrounding built environment.

A Fall 2013 groundbreaking is expected for completion by Spring 2015.

As part of the 2013/2014 budget, City Council approved the one-time funding for needed capital projects including a new headquarters for Police District 3. The new development will replace the existing headquarters, which is located at 3201 Warsaw Avenue in East Price Hill. It was constructed in 1908, and is now structurally and technologically obsolete, not accessible, and not compliant with ADA regulations. It also suffers from insufficiency of parking, space for staff, community space, and storage.

Since February 2013, an internal team of staff from various City departments has engaged the residents, businesses, property owners, and other stakeholders in all 14 communities in District 3 in the selection of the potential site and development of the new Police District 3 Headquarters. "Through this community engagement process, we received insights and priorities that provided the backdrop for the other criteria the Administration considered through the site selection process," said Dohoney.

After gathering community input at two public meetings, the internal team considered a total of 27 proposed sites, analyzed both the positive and negative aspects of each site, and recommended seven sites to the City Manager for further consideration.

The internal team, along with the assistance of MSA Architects, conducted a thorough analysis of each of the seven sites considering constructability, police operations, and the potential community development impact. After the City Manager reviewed their work and conducted site visits, he directed the team to further evaluate the potential for acquisition associated with four sites, and where appropriate, to contact owners about the availability of the subject properties. Those sites were:

1. 2841 Boudinot Avenue in Westwood
2. 2300 Ferguson Road in Westwood
3. Hawthorne Avenue (Price Hill Recreation Complex) in East Price Hill
4. Midway School in Westwood

On May 24, 2013, the East Price Hill Improvement Association (EPHIA) provided a letter to the City requesting that the Hawthorne site not be considered.

The City of Cincinnati has agreed to an "Offer for Purchase and Sale of Property" at the 2300 Ferguson Road site for \$325,000. That price is well within the line item budget for site acquisition. The next step in the acquisition process will be to perform an environmental review and other required due diligence before officially closing on the property. The site will also need to receive approval from the City Planning Commission, which according to the City's Charter is required to approve the location of all new public buildings.

The week of June 10, 2013, the City will release an RFQ to select the design/build team by the end of Summer 2013.

Stakeholders from all 14 neighborhoods in District 3 will be invited to assist with the design and public components of the new headquarters. The East Price Hill neighborhood, specifically, will be further engaged as the City works to determine the most appropriate future use for the existing headquarters.

Police District 3 encompasses 14 neighborhoods on the west side of Cincinnati: East Price Hill, East Westwood, English Woods, Lower Price Hill, Millvale, North Fairmount, Riverside, Roll Hill, Saylor Park, Sedamsville, South Cumminsville, South Fairmount, West Price Hill, and Westwood.

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