

New 2nd District Police Station Opens in Bethesda

Four-story building on Rugby Avenue features 'state-of-the-art' facilities

BY JOE ZIMMERMANN, *Published: 2018.01.22 09:43*



County officials cut the ribbon for the new 2nd District police station.

Montgomery County government and police officials cut the ribbon Monday for the new 2nd District police station in downtown Bethesda.

The four-story, 38,000-square-foot station opened on 4823 Rugby Ave., marking the end of an era for the district's former longtime station at the corner of Wisconsin and Montgomery avenues, which opened in 1961.

"It's about time to make a change. More importantly, it no longer met the needs of a modern law enforcement agency," County Executive Ike Leggett said, referring to the old station at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Bethesda-based developer StonebridgeCarras built the station as part of a public-private partnership in which the county gave the company the property of the former police station, which is across the street from the Bethesda Metro stop.

County Council member Roger Berliner, who represents Bethesda, said the partnership was a “win-win for the private and public sector” and congratulated the local police force on the new facilities.

“I am so pleased for our men and women in our police force; it is time that they had a state of the art facility,” he said at the event. “Now we have something that is worthy of this community.”

In total, 144 people, both officers and civilians, will work at the new station, which serves 190,000 people, police Chief Tom Manger said at the ceremony. He noted the history of the old station actually began in 1928, when county police first sent 20 officers to work in Bethesda, in the basement of a building on the property where the Wisconsin Avenue station would later be built.

“This new station will allow us to better serve the public and will allow my cops to operate more efficiently,” he said. “I want to say thank you to everybody who made this possible.”

The new station includes processing facilities for adults and juveniles, staff offices and a community room for public use. The station also has a secure parking lot for police vehicles, a bicycle storage area, lockers for officers and a fitness room.

The 2nd District serves Bethesda, Potomac, North Bethesda, Chevy Chase and parts of Silver Spring.

George Leventhal, an at-large council member, said that with Bethesda’s dramatic growth, the need for responsive and efficient law enforcement is only increasing in the area.

“It’s very appropriate that we should have this brand-new facility,” he said. “We absolutely want our police to be in the best equipped, most modern, most convenient and most efficient facility so that they can continue to do their excellent work.”

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