

# North Precinct Police Station Community Questions and Answers

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**Q1: What will happen with the current station once the new station is opened?**

A: The Seattle Police Department (SPD)'s north-end operations will continue in the current facility until the new station is ready to occupy. Once SPD declares the property "excess to its needs," this triggers an internal & external review process that includes multiple opportunities for public feedback. The public will receive notice when external review begins. The City Council makes decisions regarding surplus property.

**Q2: Why is there so much parking being built? Can it be reduced?**

A: A total of 331 stalls are currently planned for an on-site garage and surface lot, which is enough to meet the predicted need for 134 police fleet vehicles in 2018 and 183 in 2038 with some room for personal vehicles. Removing one parking bay from the planned garage would save about \$6.3 million net. Actual savings depend on redesign cost, potential construction delay, and potential additional environmental review.

**Q3: Is there potential for design changes?**

A: Potential design changes are currently being discussed by the Seattle City Council. Councilmembers are evaluating the parking structure, community spaces, firearms training facility and training rooms, looking for possible changes and cost savings while addressing the needs of the police, the community, and the federal consent decree.

**Q4: Will there be more community meetings?**

A: As the proposal is reviewed by the City Council there will be multiple committee meetings where the public can provide comment at City Hall. There will also be a special Gender Equity, Safe Communities & New Americans committee meeting in North Seattle tentatively on July 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be an evening public hearing, more details to come.

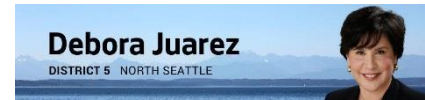
**Q5: Are we spending too much money to "fortify" the building? (Ballistic proofing and/or earthquake standards)**

A: The Seattle Building Code (SBC) defines four levels of "Risk Category" to classify all buildings relative to the risk that their failure represents to life and safety. Fire, rescue, ambulance and police stations and emergency vehicle garages fall under Category IV, which are buildings and structures designated as essential facilities.

- Essential facilities (such as the North Precinct project) are required to meet the highest performance level (IV) so that buildings can continue with their mission in the case of a significant emergency. For buildings with a risk category of IV, the seismic standard is to withstand an event equal to approximately 9.0 on the Richter scale.
- In case of a major seismic event, it is assumed that the North Precinct station will be one of very few functioning buildings in the immediate area. The lobby, community room, and the training classrooms are expected to provide much needed coordination space and temporary shelter for the community.

Ballistic protective material has been included in the design only at the building's front lobby, the most public facing and publicly accessible area of the building. The estimated maximum allowable construction cost (MACC) of these measures rounded to the nearest \$1,000 = \$760,000

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**For the past several years the current North Precinct police station has consistently failed to meet the needs of our communities.**

- ✓ The current station was built in 1984 (over 30 years ago).
- ✓ It was designed to hold 154 officers and support staff; currently it holds 254 officers and staff.
- ✓ The North Precinct serves 270,000 residents in Council Districts 4, 5 and 6 (40% of the city's population).
- ✓ By contrast, each of the other Council Districts (1, 2, 3, & 7) of approximately 90,000 residents has its own police precinct.
- ✓ The new North Precinct police station will need to serve three times the number of residents as other stations and will cover an area equal to 1/3rd of the city's land mass.
- ✓ When the existing North Precinct was originally constructed, it had a community space. However, that community space was subsequently converted into additional office space to accommodate the growth in officers.

**Mayor Murray proposed a funding plan for additional police officers**

The cost of the new officers, improving the 911 call center and other information technology investments will be \$9.4M in 2017 (rising to \$22.3 million per year by 2020). Mayor Murray is proposing to raise \$10.3 million in new revenues in 2017 (rising to \$14.3 million by 2020). The proposed increases in taxes and fees:

- 3.2% increase over two years in the existing Business and Occupation (B&O) tax rates, which have not risen since 1991.
- Restructuring and increasing the City's Business License fee, depending on the size of the business. The smallest businesses would see a license fee increase of \$25 a year. Larger businesses would see a much more significant increase in annual license fee rates.

| <b>Similar Facilities comparison presentation</b> |  |
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| <b>Project:</b>                                   | <b>\$ Per Square Foot (in 2017 dollars):</b> |
| New North Precinct Station                        | \$723 at 221,200 sq. ft.                     |
| Seattle West Precinct                             | \$454 at 100,000 sq. ft.                     |
| Seattle Southwest Precinct                        | \$851 at 28,000 sq. ft.                      |

**Legislation or Action**

There are various Council actions that need to occur prior to the start of construction. These include things like the transfer of rights-of-way between City departments to ensure adequate right-of-way, land use, and financial policy decisions for financing the project. Those decisions will likely occur sometime this fall (District 5 office staff will be sending out updates on scheduled hearings to community members).

The project also will need funding appropriation authority, which will likely occur during the fall budget process, which starts in early September and concludes just before Thanksgiving in November.