

EAST PRECINCT OPENS HERE - Seattle Times, The (WA) - January 25, 1986 - page D10

January 25, 1986 | Seattle Times, The (WA) | SALLY GENE MAHONEY | Page D10

Nine years and \$3.6 million later, the Seattle Police Department finally has its **East Precinct**, a renovated historic building at 12th Avenue and **East Pine Street**.

Officers reported for the first shift at the new facility at 3:30 this morning.

At dedication ceremonies yesterday, the years of turmoil over creation of a police building to serve **Capitol Hill**, the Central Area and the eastern edge of the city weren't ignored, but they were downplayed.

``There still are people who feel the presence of the police is not a positive for the neighborhood," Mayor Charles Royer acknowledged. ``But," he added, ``an overwhelming number feel it is a positive.

``The police need a partnership with the community in order to carry out their jobs," he told the audience, adding he thinks ``doubts and suspicions" some had about the precinct's final location have been allayed.

The siting troubles began with a proposal that the station be placed in the middle of the Central Area _ first at 16th Avenue and Yesler Way, later at 23rd Avenue and Yesler.

Local groups objected to having the police stationed in their neighborhood, however, and staged protest meetings and sit-ins.

Eventually, after the city hearings examiner recommended against the area, city officials decided to look elsewhere.

The offer of the former Klineburger Taxidermy building at the juncture of First and **Capitol Hills** brought new protests, this time from gay groups concerned that the police presence would lead to harassment of homosexuals who frequent neighborhood businesses. But those protests died down with assurances from city officials, and the building was accepted.

Several older residents of the area attended the dedication, including Roy Anderson, who lives a couple of blocks away. ``This will strengthen the whole district," he said, adding he was happy to see the station finally open.

And so was City Council President Sam Smith, who has pushed for the precinct for a decade. Noting he had ridden through the fire of protest ``when all hell broke loose," he said he was ``happy to be here to see it."

The completely remodeled two-story building is being leased to the city for the next 13 months by the developer, Pine Street Associates. It will be acquired by the city at the end of the lease.

The 65-year-old structure will be the base for 125 officers and 20 cars used on three shifts. It will house no prisoners, except for some brief detention before transport to the downtown jail.

A second floor, to house detective squads and a community-meeting room, will be finished later for an estimated \$400,000.

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