

Vineland breaks ground on new \$20 million police station

JOHN DeROSIER Staff Writer Jan 24, 2018



VINELAND — The city officially broke ground Wednesday on a new, \$20 million state-of-the-art police station that will provide a “safe and pleasing environment for both staff and visitors,” Mayor Anthony Fanucci said.

The new building, located at 620 E. Plum St., is set to be completed by the end of this year and will feature 66,000 square feet in space and new fingerprint technology to help conform to criminal justice reforms in New Jersey.

“We’ve outgrown the old building,” police Chief Rudolph Beu said. “It served us well

for 50 years, and this new building will serve us for at least that long.”

According to Fanucci, the acquisition of the land, as well as construction of the station, is being funded by the Cumberland County Improvement Authority. Over the next 20 years, the city will make debt payments to the authority, and once it’s paid off, the title will be transferred to Vineland for \$1.

Fanucci and Gerard Velazquez, president of the improvement authority, said this process made the most fiscal sense and will not raise taxes in Vineland to pay for it.

Velazquez added the improvement authority monetarily settled with people who lived on the property before it was cleared to make way for the new station.

He said many of those people, who were previously tenants, used that money to buy their own homes.

“This is another positive project coming to fruition in Cumberland County thanks to the hard work and cooperation of the City of Vineland and (authority) officials,” Cumberland County Freeholder Director Joe Derella said in a statement. “It’s great to see the Improvement Authority once again develop another multi-million dollar project that is key to the infrastructure of the county and its largest city.”

The Improvement Authority is responsible for developing, financing and managing major projects that are considered critical to the future success of Cumberland County.

Projects being managed by the authority include a food commercialization center in Bridgeton, the Bridgeton Downtown Center and the Cumberland County Technical Education Center in Millville. Some recently completed projects include the restoration of the East Point Lighthouse in Maurice River Township and the Arts and Innovation Center in Millville.