

OKC Police needing manpower more than new stations

By Jacob Sturm

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There may not be plans for a new Police Station in the west Oklahoma City area, but that doesn't hinder the OKC Police Department's operations.

Sgt. Gary Knight, the Assistant Public Information Officer with the OKC Police Department, said the location of the stations doesn't mean much for the areas the officers cover.

"Having a new station out there (west OKC) doesn't really mean that there would be more officers out there," Knight said. "That's just where officer's meet at the beginning and end of their shift."

"Right now, we have a fairly new one out there already, our southwest briefing station, which is out at 55th and South Portland, and then we just built a new hangar out there right beside it for our helicopter," Knight said. "But as far as building a new physical station out there, there are

no plans at this time that I'm aware of."

Knight said the extra stations wouldn't change the manpower, either. The crux of the OKC Police Department's current problem is the manpower on hand.

That can impact numbers of patrol officers in a given area, depending on the time of day and the staffing levels within the moment. The officers have to devote more resources to specific areas of town, meaning others will inevitably have less.

With that being the case, OKC police officers still address all areas of the city as needs arise.

"We are always looking to hire more officers," Knight said.

Staff levels fluxuate monthly, with officers retiring and academy's graduating. In total, there are about 1,000 officers in the force. That counts detectives, specialized units and more. The OKCPD is authorized up to 1,200-1,300



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"Just because they (people in the city) don't have a briefing station in their neighborhood, doesn't mean that they receive less attention than areas that do have a briefing station," Knight said. "It's the same number of manpower... That wouldn't make any difference, but we do everything that we can to not only address the crime needs in the community, but to partner with the community to help address crime."



Sergeant Gary Knight, with the Oklahoma City Police Department, discussed recently the OKCPD's ability to cover western Oklahoma City. PHOTO PROVIDED

Construction underway for new HomeGoods location

By Van Mitchell

Staff Writer

Construction is underway on a new HomeGoods, one of the nation's leading off-price home décor retailers, at Czech Hall Marketplace, located off Interstate 40, at North Czech Hall Road, in Oklahoma City.

"There is a new 23,000-square foot HomeGoods store in Yukon that is anticipated to open in the fall," according to a statement from the HomeGoods media office in Massachusetts.

HomeGoods operates more than 820 stores across the country and is a division of The TJX Companies, Inc., the leading off-price retailer of apparel and home fashions in the U.S. and worldwide.

The Yukon location is part of a development project by Sooner Investment of Oklahoma City, which has built several HomeGoods stores, said Leland Clark, with Sooner Investment.

Clark has over 20 years of commercial real estate experience with SuperValu, Associated Wholesale Grocers and Snyder Drug Stores / Drug Emporium, analyzing and developing markets for grocery and drug stores. He has filled positions such as Market Analyst, Director of Real Estate and Vice President of Real Estate and Store Development. Since 2004, he has been associated with the Sooner Investment group, involved with retail development.

"We built a number of stores for the TJX Company through the years," he said. "They are in a lot of our shopping centers."

As of January 30, 2021, the end of the company's fiscal year, TJX operated a total of 4,572 stores in nine countries, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland,



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Leland Clark
Sooner Investment

Germany, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands, and Australia, and four e-commerce sites.

HomeGoods operates several locations in Oklahoma including Tulsa, Edmond, Norman, and Stillwater.

The company recently introduced its online store at HomeGoods.com. The online store is a new destination for shoppers to discover a unique assortment of products, top brands, and décor ideas.

"We are excited to expand HomeGoods' digital footprint so customers can shop whenever they'd like," said Mark DeOliveira, President, TJX Digital US in a press release. "HomeGoods.com will provide a complementary experience to our stores, allowing shoppers to pair in-store purchases with online finds to bring their vision to life."

HomeGoods joins other new tenants at Czech Hall Marketplace including Pub W, and Neighborhood Jam.