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Ald. Michael Murphy
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Asset Forfeiture Money To Help Expedite New MPD Task Force HQ At Former Station

Ald. Michael Murphy Hails Chief's Use of Funds for Renovation

The creation of the police department's new Neighborhood Task Force, nearly 200 officers strong and to be headquartered in the Washington Heights neighborhood, took a big step forward Thursday (May 29) when Police Chief Edward Flynn announced that he will use \$325,000 in police asset forfeiture funds to help pay for renovating the former District Three Police Station at 4715 W. Vliet St., Ald. Michael J. Murphy said.

The money is included in Chief Flynn's 2008 plan for using asset forfeiture funds and was accepted and recommended for approval by the Common Council's Public Safety Committee Thursday, and was referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee, which is expected to take up the item at its June 5 meeting.

Alderman Murphy, who last year supported a \$200,000 item in the 2008 city budget calling for the shift of Police Performance Division officers to the vacant former District Three Police Station, reiterated his position that the increased visibility of the deployment in the community and the increased presence of additional police officers in the area will benefit public safety in the Washington Heights, Martin Drive, and Washington Park neighborhoods.

"The \$325,000 amount is by far the largest chunk of the 2008 asset forfeiture plan, and I'm grateful to the chief for his commitment to making this move happen," said Ald. Murphy, chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee. "I'm very pleased to see this new task force will also complement district patrol efforts in fighting crime."

The alderman has said he would eventually like to see the Fire and Police Commission move to the old 3rd District station also "so that the community feels it (commission) is more accessible and better connected to residents."