

Fire Department To Host Open House At New Central Area Fire Station

The Seattle Fire Department will host an open house this Sat., Mar. 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at its brand new Fire Station 6, located at 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. in the Central District.

"The fire stations and the firefighters are an integral part of the communities they serve. This is a chance for residents to meet the men and women who serve their area," says Fire Chief Gregory Dean.

Fire Station 6 is one of 32 neighborhood fire stations being upgraded, renovated or replaced through the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Program, which was approved by Seattle voters in 2003. Construction on the \$5.9 million station began in August 2011 and was completed in January 2013. Eight personnel are on duty at the station per shift.

"This is a chance for the Seattle residents to see their tax dollars at work," says Mayor Mike McGinn. "It's vital our firefighters have earthquake resilient facilities in order to

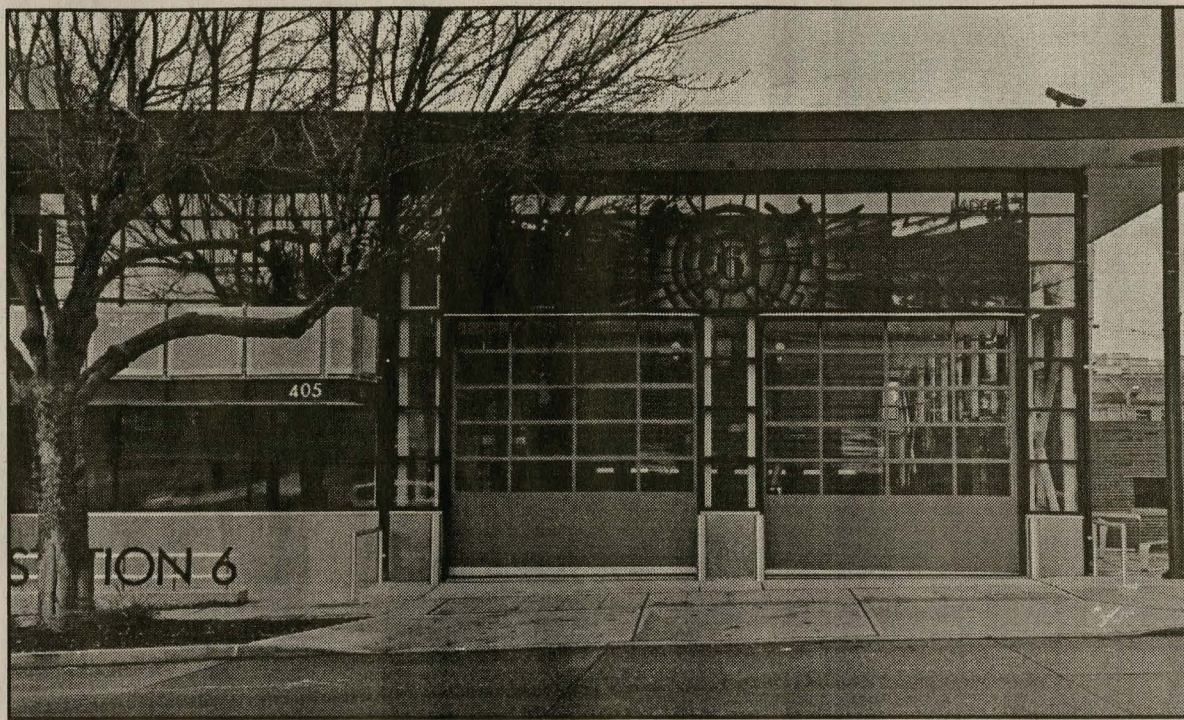


Photo courtesy of Mike Heaton.

respond to major disasters or emergencies."

The new 11,200 square foot facility meets seismic code and is designed to be safely occupied following an earthquake. A diesel-powered generator allows the building to run for 72 hours should the building lose

electricity.

The new Fire Station 6 replaces a 4,060 square foot station built in 1931 and located at 101 23rd Ave. S. The former station 6's existing configuration, site terrain and historic character ruled out an on-site expansion.

A new apparatus bay provides the space the ladder truck and engine require. Features of the new facility to protect firefighters include a decontamination room and areas to avoid contaminating clean spaces with chemicals and toxic substances. Additional room for

equipment includes a bunker gear room and storage space for modern firefighting equipment.

Fire Station 6 is one of the busiest in the city, tallying 3289 emergency responses in 2012.

The Seattle Fire Department's goal for "turnout time" – the time it takes for a firefighter to get to the vehicles and out of the building from any place on site – is one minute or less 90 percent of the time. For the fire department, this was the single most important thing to think about during building design. One unique feature – "scissor stairs" – maximizes Fire Station 6's small footprint and helps achieve the quick turnout time. Scissor stairs are a set of two interlocking stairways providing two separate exit paths within one stairwell enclosure.

The new building reflects the city's commitment to green design practices. Seattle is seeking a LEED gold certification for the facility, which includes recycled construction materials; low-VOC (volatile organic

compounds) paints, carpets and plywood; lots of natural light coming through double-glazed windows; energy-efficient lighting tied to occupancy and daylight sensors; permeable parking areas allowing water to infiltrate naturally rather than draining directly into a storm drain; a vegetated roof that helps control run off and moderate building temperatures; and water-efficient plantings. What little water that will be required for irrigation comes from roof run-off held in underground storage tanks. The building has been wired to accept power from future solar panels planned for the roof. Power generated from solar panels can be used for the building, or given to Seattle City Light for use elsewhere.

A traffic signal, triggered by a firefighter in the building when they are preparing to leave on an emergency call, will keep the intersection at Martin Luther King Jr. Way South and South Jackson Street clear when fire rigs exit the station.

Bill To Remove Unfair Housing Practices Clears Senate

OLYMPIA – A bill to ensure victims of domestic violence have fair and equal access to housing passed the Senate on Monday night.

Senate Bill 5568, sponsored by Sen. Steve Hobbs, D-Lake Stevens, received a 46-3 vote and will now move to the House for

further consideration.

This bill, the Fair Tenant Screening Act Part 2, expands the original act to include protections for victims of domestic violence.

"We made great progress on the Fair Tenant Screening Act a few years ago and this bill helps

finish the work we started on it," Hobbs said. "Being a victim of domestic violence is a trauma I couldn't imagine. There's no reason why someone should have to have that horrible incident brought up again while looking for a home. This bill prevents that from happening."

Currently, tenant screening reports are allowed to contain information about domestic violence protection orders and eviction lawsuits. This bill will remove that information from those reports.

Constantine Orders Inquest Into Fatal Police Shooting Of Man At Central Area Nightclub

Last Friday, King County Executive Dow Constantine ordered an inquest into the fatal police shooting of James Anderson at a Central Area nightclub on January 27, 2013.

Police say the 32-year-old man shot and wounded two people at the Twilight Exit at 2514 East Cherry St. When

officers arrived and identified themselves, police say Anderson fired at them and one officer returned fire, killing Anderson.

King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg recommended the inquest after his office reviewed materials from the Seattle Police Department, which conducted the investigation.

Inquests are fact-finding hearings conducted before a six-member jury. Under a standing Executive Order they are routinely called to determine the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of any law enforcement agency within King County while in the performance of his or her duties.

The order signed by the Executive requests King County District Court Presiding Judge Corinna Harn to assign a judge to set a date and conduct the inquest.

House Approves Compensation For Wrongful Convictions

By Rachel La Corte
Associated Press

OLYMPIA (AP) – The state House on Friday approved a measure that allows people who were wrongfully convicted to seek compensation from the state for the years they lost behind bars.

The measure passed on a 95-2 vote Friday night and now heads to the Senate for consideration. If passed, Washington would join 27 states, the District of Columbia and the federal government with similar laws on the books.

Rep. Tina Orwall, a Democrat from Normandy Park who sponsored the bill, said that of all of the measures she has been involved with before, "none have impacted me as much as the bill before you."

The measure would allow people who were wrongfully convicted to file a claim in superior court for damages against the state. The claimant must show their conviction was reversed or vacated based on significant evidence of innocence, and that they did not commit the crime they were charged with. Once a judge or jury determines the claim is

valid, they can award damages.

Currently, the only option someone has is to sue the state, but they are required to sue on some basis other than the fact that they were wrongfully convicted, such as intentional wrongdoing or prosecutorial misconduct.

Under the bill, compensation would be similar to the amounts paid by the federal government – a wrongly convicted person would receive \$50,000 for each year of imprisonment, including time spent awaiting trial. An additional \$50,000 would be awarded for each year on death row. A person would receive \$25,000 for each year on parole, community custody, or as a registered sex offender.

The state also would pay all child support owed while the claimant was in custody, and reimburse all court and attorneys' fees up to \$75,000. In addition, in-state college tuition waivers would be provided for the claimant and the claimant's children and/or step-children.

Orwall mentioned the case of Alan Northrop, who was convicted of rape in 1993 and was cleared by DNA evidence after serving 17 years in prison.

Northrup testified in earlier public hearings that the hardest part of his time behind bars was not being able to watch his children grow up.

"This compensation is a way for us to say we're sorry," Orwall said. "It's a way for them to rebuild their lives."

A fiscal note attached to the bill indicates the impact on the state can't be determined at this time due to all the varying factors, such as the number of claims, years on parole and legal costs, in addition to the college costs. An amendment introduced on the House floor seeking to cap the compensation at \$300,000 was rejected.

Supporters of state compensation say the cost to the state is a small price to pay to repair a life.

"How much is your life worth?" asked Republican Rep. Matt Shea of Spokane, as he spoke in support of the measure. "How much is the enjoyment of your children, of your wife, of going outdoors, how much is that worth?"

The wrongful conviction measure is House Bill 1341.

Two Off-duty Seattle Police Officers Charged With DUIs

Last Thursday, the Seattle City Attorney's Office charged two off-duty police officers with one count each of misdemeanor driving under the influence.

In a breath test Officer Marie Gochmour registered blood-alcohol levels of .234 percent

and .247 percent, above the state's legal limit of .08 percent. Officer Sean Moore's breath sample was .161 and .149.

They were arrested Dec. 17, 2012 after a 911 caller reported a vehicle/pole collision near First Avenue South and South Lander

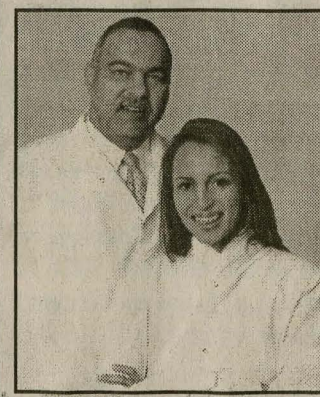
Street. The two were found in Gochmour's vehicle.

The officers have been reassigned to desk duty, Gochmour from patrol and Moore from the K9 unit.

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