

Fenton for City Council 2009

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FENTON APPLAUDS POTENTIAL NEW POLICE FACILITY

SPRINGFIELD – Ward 2 City Council Candidate Michael Fenton strongly backs the proposed reuse of the Arthur MacArthur Army Reserve Center on East Street as additional space for the Springfield Police Department. The proposal, presently before the Springfield Redevelopment Authority, would provide the department with extra evidence rooms and space for vehicles. The training academy is already on site.

“This project, in addition to providing economic development to Ward 2, facilitates a more visible police presence in our community thus reassuring residents of their safety and security in their persons and in their property.”

The Armory Site will be left partially vacant after the Army Reserve Center relocates to Westover Air Reserve Base. “This project, if approved and funded accordingly, is really a win-win for Ward 2. The residents of East Springfield would benefit from having a neighborhood property operated and maintained by the Springfield Police Department and the SPD would gain some much needed storage and training space from the accusation of the East Street property.”

Although the facility would not be a precinct per se, it could, pending available funding, usher in the establishment of police substations in the city. “Adding a visible police presence in neighborhoods not only makes people feel safe. It brings officers who work in those neighborhoods into the community and allows the community to get to know the officers.”

Fenton also supports the use of excess space donated by community centers and associations for use by neighborhood police during breaks and before/after shifts as a means to build better community relations.