

Consolidated academy considered

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland Community College (OCC) is seriously considering building a permanent police academy in Madison Heights.

The proposed facility, to be built near the intersection of John R and 13 Mile Road, has gained the support of County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and many county law enforcement officials.

The police academy's offerings are currently spread throughout the college's four campuses. Administrative offices are in Royal Oak, the six location in 11 years.

"We could do a much better job if the operation is consolidated under one roof," said Commissioner Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), who is serving as the academy's interim superintendent.

"Every two years the academy has been moved to wherever there's room," he said. "And we've had problems having different offerings in dif-

ferent cities. A tremendous amount of time is lost in traveling."

Moxley said college trustees have been studying plans for a permanent police academy which the county had drawn in 1976. The projected construction cost at that time was \$1.7 million. No estimate has been made for the Madison Heights site.

Moxley, who served as the academy's superintendent from 1967 to 1977, said a proposal calling for a permanent facility and an expansion of

the program was submitted to the college's board in 1972.

He said that if the Madison Heights facility became a reality the academy would expand beyond usual police training courses into detention, probation and parole officer instruction.

Moxley said the county administration has pledged to help finance construction. There has been no firm financial commitment, however.

The interim superintendent quoted

Murphy as saying that the county would be willing to contribute to the construction of actual police training facilities, such as a pistol range or all-purpose rooms. Moxley said the county would be unwilling to aid in the construction of classroom or library facilities because they would have to be built by OCC in any case.

Murphy along with many of his top level administration were out of town early in the week and were unavailable for comment.

Moxley heads OCC police academy again

County Commissioner Ralph Moxley has returned to the Oakland Community College (OCC) police academy—but only temporarily.

Moxley, who was a driving force behind the establishment of the county wide police academy and served as its superintendent for a decade, is filling in as interim superintendent.

Normand Gomolak resigned as superintendent last month to join the staff of long-time friend, newly-elected Dearborn Mayor John O'Reilly.

Moxley, who served as the academy's superintendent from the time of its establishment in 1967 until 1977, said he was "just pinch hitting" until the OCC board of trustees could find a permanent replacement.

He said he expects a new superintendent to be hired in February. He said he has already made vacation plans for March.

According to the college, the field has been narrowed to three applicants, but no formal action can be taken to

fill the post permanently until the board of trustees' regular meeting Feb. 16.

"The show has to go on," Moxley said, "but I'm looking forward to slowing down." He denied that he would be tapped to fill the position he left last year.

Prior to heading the newly-founded police academy in 1967, Moxley had served as police chief of Birmingham. He held the position for 19 years, from 1948 to 1967.



Bundled Barney

Barney, a happy three-month-old terrier-mix, is bundled up and ready for a walk, but he is in need of someone to walk him. If you would like to be that someone, contact Barney at the Michigan Humane Society Mini Shelter, 1329 S. Woodward. He can be reached at 646-5099.

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