



Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) Foundation
Our Views: Police academy II long overdue



Posted: Thursday, February 19, 2015 - Last week Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano announced plans to construct a new training and intelligence-gathering center for the Nassau County Police Department. This is welcome news.

The center will be built on the campus of Nassau Community College in Garden City. The 12,000 square-foot facility, which will replace the outdated police academy in Massapequa Park, housed at the former Hawthorne Elementary School, won't come cheap.

It is estimated that it will cost \$40 million. We expect the price tag to grow by the time the facility opens in 2017.

According to county officials, \$10 million for the project will be taken from capital funding. The rest will come from donations to the non-profit Nassau County Police Foundation and from asset forfeiture funds. These funds, we assume, include money seized from drug dealers and white-collar criminals.

This is a worthwhile investment in the future of Nassau County. In the 21st century the county needs a highly trained police force that is second to none. Police need the skills to cope with everything from gang violence and drug dealing to the growing problem of cyber crime which, although non-violent, is having a growing impact on quality of life everywhere in America.

These criminals think nothing of taking a person's life savings with a few strokes on a keyboard. Keeping up with them won't be easy.

We fully agree with Police Commissioner Thomas Krumpert, who said in a statement, "Our current facility was built and designed as a grammar school, not a police academy. Good training is the key to disciplined, effective and fair policing and this new, upgraded and, most importantly, permanent facility will give us everything we need to provide the best and most up-to-date training to our members."

Nassau County is one of the best places in America to live and do business.

To keep it that way we need a top-notch police force equipped with the best tools, training and technology money can buy.