



Perris News

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer
Phone: 951-956-2120
jvargo@cityofperris.org

Former Police HQ is Transformed into an Auto Repair Shop

Renovations are underway to convert a portion of the old Perris Police Department Headquarters to an automotive repair center and body shop operated by Mount San Jacinto College and a private City-based company.

Perris officials say converting the 4th Street building marks the first time a college program will call Perris home. It also furthers City efforts to revitalize 4th Street while providing employment-ready skills to the college, high school and adult students who graduate from the program.

Contractors this week ripped out old electrical outlets and lines, interior walls and stairs. Other portions of the 3,600-square-foot building were being spruced up to accommodate auto-tech students. Work on the project is expected to wrap up by September, said Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin.

The upgrades cost about \$400,000, most of which from the City's redevelopment agency budget, funds specifically designated for such projects.

"We're very excited because the students who complete this program will have employable skills," Madkin said. Mayor Daryl Busch said Perris is working with Mount San Jacinto College to set up a program that will train students to work on Honda and Accura vehicles.

Once they graduate, they will become certified as an entry-level service technician. The Perris Union High School District will take the lead in established a body-shop program, where damaged vehicles will be restored.

In addition, the City is working with Resurrection Customs, which will operate its own body shop in the daytime and serve as a classroom for students study automotive reconstruction at night.

"We think this is a great public-private partnership," Busch said. "We are going to get the maximum use of the building while providing job-training facilities to our residents. We think it is going to be a real asset to our community."

The former Police Headquarters, located at 4th and G streets, once served as an office and maintenance yard for Southern California Edison.

The Perris Police later used the complex as its headquarters before moving into its new station in 2008. The area under conversion served as an evidence building and has been vacant since the Police Department left.

Busch said the City has been working for at least 18 months to bring new tenants to the building.



Perris Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin (right) and project manager Dave Martinez review blueprints at the job site. The City is spending \$400,000 to renovate the former law enforcement evidence facility.



Sparks fly as Michael Navarro grinds a piece of metal off a doorway at the former Perris Police Department complex, which is being converted into an auto-repair and body shop.



A worker rips off electrical conduit as part of the ongoing renovations.