

It's Not Just Art
Tucker Neel, 2016

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- 2) Use the enclosed pen and the blank page provided to express your thoughts about how a city might best allocate \$70,000 to fund public art that reminds drivers to stop for pedestrians and pedestrians to be careful.
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Friendship Heights 'Police Officer' Taking the Summer Off

Sculpture of officer installed 16 years ago is getting new paint and some structural repairs

BY AARON KRAUT

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The police officer who has been on duty in Friendship Heights for 16 years is taking the summer off for some much-needed maintenance work.

The popular bronze sculpture of a policeman leaning toward the intersection of South Park Avenue and The Hills Plaza is undergoing about \$8,000 worth of repairs, according to Julian Mansfield, manager of the Village of Friendship Heights.

Mansfield said he's gotten calls from people concerned the life-sized sculpture was stolen. He said Wednesday it was removed about a month ago and shipped to the New Jersey studios of J. Seward Johnson, the sculptor who built the piece on commission from the village.

"We've had it touched up over the years. It got to the point where it just needed to be completely restored by the original sculptor. If you looked at him up close he would look kind of worn out," Mansfield said.

The statue, which was secured to the sidewalk, was dedicated to Col. James McAuliffe, Sr., a longtime Friendship Heights resident and former Montgomery County police chief who died in 1996.



The police officer sculpture in Friendship Heights was installed in 2000



The sculpture, shown in 2014. Via Village of Friendship Heights.

It also serves as a safety device, meant to catch the attention of drivers and pedestrians at the intersection. Its outstretched right arm is to remind drivers to stop for pedestrians and pedestrians to be careful. It cost the village \$70,000 to build and install in 2000.

Mansfield said Johnson will replace some small bits of the sculpture that have likely been ripped off throughout the years, such as a tiny pen that was originally sticking out of the officer's hip. Johnson will also apply new paint.

"It's not just art. It's art with a public safety purpose," Mansfield said. "He's never been hit. I shouldn't even jinx it by saying it."

The sculpture has become a landmark in Friendship Heights. Staff in the village's community center often direct first-time visitors to the facility by telling them to look for the nearby police sculpture.

Mansfield said the village hopes the restoration work is finished and the sculpture is back in place by the end of summer, though he doesn't know exactly when it will return to duty.

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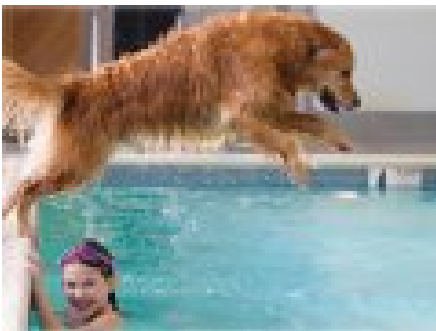
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