



The 19-story student residence building at Suffolk University will almost double the number of students living on campus.

Suffolk breaks ground on 368-bed dormitory

By Thomas C. Palmer, Jr.
GLOBE STAFF

A tiny Somerset Street parking lot squeezed in behind Suffolk University on Beacon Hill is closed, and a new, 368-bed dormitory will open for the 2003-04 academic year.

University officials yesterday were joined at a gala groundbreaking by city officials, who are happy to have more housing in the city and fewer students taking up apartment space.

The new, 19-story dorm will almost double the number of Suffolk students living on campus. The university built its first dorm, with 400 beds on Tremont Street in 1996.

The new Somerset Street Residence Hall, at 8-12 Somerset, is behind One Center Plaza and the old Suffolk County Courthouse.

The \$45 million, 128,000 square-foot building is being built on a one-fifth-acre lot between 911 Beacon St. and Suffolk's Sawyer School of Management building. Cannon Design is the architect, Richard White Sons

construction manager.

The Sounds of the New Liberty Jazz Band, mounted on an old fire engine, echoed off urban walls around Beacon Street yesterday as Suffolk and city officials welcomed the new housing, and workers prepared to excavate. Two levels will be below grade, 19 above.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Authority have had some success in encouraging dorm construction in Boston to alleviate pressure on - and conflict in - neighborhoods. "This will allow the opportunity for others who are squeezed out of the housing market to get in," said BRA director Mark Maloney.

Dean of students Nancy Stoll said the new dorm will allow more students a safe, affordable place to live near their classes and Boston's recreational opportunities.

Suffolk was founded in 1906 and has more than 6,000 students.

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