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Philadelphia puts out call for new police and firefighter memorial

By Vernon Clark
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In a call to architects throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, leaders of Philadelphia public safety workers unions Wednesday announced a design competition for a new memorial honoring police and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

The memorial will replace the Living Flame Memorial to fallen police and firefighters in Franklin Square Park at Sixth and Race Streets, across Race Street from the Police Administration Building.

"The quest for a new memorial for our police and firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty is long overdue," Bob Ballentine, recording secretary for Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 5, said at a news conference at the firefighters' union hall at Fifth and Winter Streets in the city's Spring Garden section.

Bob Bedard, coordinator and spokesman for the design competition, said the winner or winners would be awarded \$10,000. He said the contest would be conducted and judged in cooperation with the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Bedard estimated the new memorial would cost from \$750,000 to \$1 million.

Deadline for entries is Nov. 1, and the winner will be announced in mid-November, Bedard said. Details about the competition and about making donations to the project are at www.fallenheroesmemorialfund.org.

Bedard said there were no restrictions on the look of the memorial designs.

"What we're looking for is something that evokes the dedication of these public safety officers and is respectful of the contributions they have made," he said.

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