

Neighborhood Safety Patrol

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2006

2-202 Center for Science and Technology

Present: Donna Adams, Tony Callisto, Joe Cecile, Paul Dillon, Harry Lewis, Laura Madelone, Norm Traino and Karen Ventrone

Absent: *Pat McPeak, John Sardino

* Pat McPeak will be changing positions within the University and therefore, Cheryl Stanley will be the representative from Judicial Affairs on the NSP

Welcome:

Karen Ventrone welcomed the group and thanked them for coming. Introductions were made for those who did not know Tony Callisto and Paul Dillon.

Tony Callisto's contact information is:

Chief Anthony Callisto, Jr.

Interim Director

Syracuse University Public Safety

130 College Place, 005 Sims Hall

Syracuse, NY 13244

Voice: 315.443.5480

Cell: 315.952.4098

Fax: 315.443.2930

E-mail: acallist@syr.edu

Paul Dillon works from 5:30 am – 1:30 pm and his contact information is:

Paul Dillon

Captain, Syracuse Police Department

511 S. State St.

Syracuse NY 13202

Voice: 315-442-5325

E-mail: pdillon@syracusepolice.org

Statistics:

Laura Madelone reviewed the NSP statistics from 2005-06. Laura reviewed the process of gathering statistics for those who did not know. Joe Cecile sends the appropriate police logs to the Office of Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS), and a staff member from OCSS enters the information into the spreadsheet and generates this report. To note: there have been an increase in property checks since 2002-03; there has been a decrease in total calls and an increase in the number of parking tickets issued. Overall, the number of arrests is up, but the number of students referred to Judicial Affairs is down; the number of SU students being cited, then, has decreased. Please see attached handout.

Norm Traino asked the following questions:

- Do Calls for Service (see Statistics handout) come through 911? Joe Cecile responded that Calls for Service can come in any form; 911, main phone line, through patrol and direct observation, etc.
- If someone dials 911, what happens in this neighborhood? Joe responded that the dispatcher will determine the location of the call and if it's within the NSP boundaries, he or she will send the NSP car to that location.
- Are property checks and visits to crime victims logged in as well? Joe said they are recorded as "Follow Up calls".
- Can a landlord call the police on a regular phone line to request a follow up to a tenant who has been a crime victim? Joe recommended they call him directly. Joe can be reached at 315-448-8641 (Office).

Funding & Finances

NSP Financial Status

Karen Ventrone stated that the 2005-06 accounts are in the process of being balanced with the City. Unspent UNSAAC funds that flow through SEUNA will be used to cover the shortage of the weekday patrol.

Karen presented the NSP Funding breakdown for 2006-07 and the corresponding calendar. Please see attached handouts. There are two funding handouts- one is the actual, the other is the "ideal" if there was sufficient funding.

Karen announced that SEUNA requested \$57,000 through UNSAAC for the weekend patrol and it was approved by the Common Council. For the weekday patrol, SPOA sent a letter to Karen stating their 2006-07 contribution would be \$5,000. This is a significant decrease in the past years' contributions of \$22,000 each year. SPOA attributed this to an increase in expenditures on their part this year, due to legal fees associated with passed City ordinances.

Norm reported that last year, when the weekday patrol budget was low, he contacted at least 15 fellow property owners that he felt may be able to afford to generate additional patrol funds. He described how the patrol works, its benefits and the cost of buying one patrol (last year was approximately \$156 per weekday patrol). Those Norm contacted were not interested, mostly because of a perception by their student tenants that the NSP was not a good thing, that it is seen as a party patrol. From what landlords said, students did not want landlords to be associated with the patrol that cites loud parties, trash and issues parking tickets.

Laura stated her surprise at this comment because in all of the forums and discussions her office (OCSS) has had with students, they continually request more patrols, not less, and that safety is their top priority. Joe Cecile agreed. Laura's office plans to hold focus groups with students in the upcoming semester and she will put together feedback she receives from students for Norm to speak with other property owners. NSP's goal is to combat this negative perception with qualitative responses from students off-campus.

During the discussion, Norm proposed that the NSP become an entity of the University Neighborhood Partnership (UNP) because it is a university-community issue, not simply a university issue. The UNP membership would be the appropriate umbrella and ultimate governing body to manage the NSP. Laura supported this. She envisions the UNP as the umbrella with the NSP as a subcommittee led by a

UNP Steering Committee member or neutral stakeholder. Karen stated she will bring this recommendation up on behalf of the NSP to the UNP and await future developments.

Given the fact that the 2006-07 funding is not adequate to provide the level of coverage as in the past, Laura asked the NSP committee what will be the consistent message used to describe the decrease in patrols. Karen will draft something to share with the NSP members; it will state that's decreased funding is a direct result of increased business expenses absorbed by SPOA this year. Norm wanted it to be known that SPOA wants to be a continued partner.

Tony Callisto asked why the funding had decreased; Norm described SPOA's legal dispute with the City of Syracuse over the constitutionality of the Nuisance Party Ordinance and the Certificate of Sufficiency and its associated expenses. SPOA did not challenge the substantive portion of the Nuisance Party Ordinance, but the vicarious liability on the property owner. Joe and Paul Dillon asked if it's possible to simply "strike" the ordinance and redraft it; Joe stated that he was in favor of including the property owner liability in the beginning in order to hold those who profit from after hours establishments accountable. Joe and Paul plan to discuss the option of redrafting with Corporation Council. Laura pointed out that OCSS studies practices of other institutions across the country and those with Nuisance Party Ordinances have not had the same legal disputes that Syracuse has and that each holds the property owner as a liable party.

2005-06 Patrol Calendar

A discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the proposed patrol calendar in light of the reduction in funding. It was determined that perhaps only one officer is needed on weekends during frigid weather; Karen will make the changes and send a new draft (see attached).

Tony Callisto and Paul Dillon asked if there is a way to utilize one SPD Officer and one DPS Peace Officer for the patrols. Laura, Joe and others supported this idea, but apparently, the notion received resistance in the past. Tony and Laura are going to discuss this with SU Risk Management to determine if it's possible and will report back to Karen.

New Business

Karen and Laura attended the June 2006 UNP meeting; the UNP recommended that the officers who work the NSP have more "face time" with the students so they can see the NSP as helpful in terms of their safety and in crime reduction, and not as a party patrol. As a result, Laura shared some activities of the OCSS (Meet & Greet and prize wheel activities) in the neighborhood, where SPD and DPS officers will partner with staff to speak with students. These will take place (with safety as the subject matter) on September 6th and 7th on the corners of Lancaster & Euclid and Comstock & Euclid, respectively).

Next meeting

Late October or early November