

MEETING REPORT

TO: John Sardino; Darya Rotblat; Harry Lewis; Capt. Paul Dillon; Sgt. Joe Cecile; Beth Rougeux; Corey Driscoll; Patrick McPeak; Nicole Asencio

FROM: Corey Driscoll

MEETING

DATE: August 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Safety Patrol

PRESENT: Lt. John Sardino and Cpl. Mike Toia (SU Dept. of Public Safety); Lt. Joe Cecile (Syracuse Police Department); Darya Rotblat (Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services); Nicole Asencio (Office of Judicial Affairs); Corey Driscoll (SU Government and Community Relations); Harry Lewis (Resident)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Statistics

The group reviewed the year-end statistics for the Neighborhood Safety Patrol. There were no questions or concerns related to the chart.

III. Account Balances

At the completion of the 2008-2009 academic year, the NSP funds used a total of \$74,863.90. Therefore, out of the \$80,000 of UNSAAC funds allotted for NSP, only \$5,136.10 remained at the end of the year. Corey pointed out that this is a pretty good number, particularly in light of the increased patrols used during the fall of 2008 that were not included in the year's budget.

IV. 2008-09 Patrol Calendar

A. Patrol calendar for 2009-2010

The group was pleased with the patrol calendar, particularly the support that patrols will receive early on during the academic year. There were no additions or changes proposed to the calendar, but Corey assured the group that there is some room to add extra patrols, should the need arise.

B. Behavior trends in the neighborhood over the summer

Lt. Cecile pointed out that although the rash of burglaries in the East neighborhood has decreased, the crimes are still occurring, despite having arrested a number of suspects allegedly associated with the home invasions. Lt. Cecile shared that the SPD is pursuing leads and that the current burglars might be connected with those who have been arrested, but until then, the crimes continue, including some of Scott Avenue.

C. Concerns for the Fall

With the upcoming academic year beginning, Darya shared that she and Corey will be doing “community walks” to become more familiar with the neighborhood and to proactively begin discussions with students in the neighborhood regarding parking, safety, trash, etc. Through these walks, Darya and Corey hope to become familiar faces in the neighborhood.

Lt. Sardino pointed out that the increase in patrols during the first few weeks of school may result in an increase of cases referred to Judicial Affairs and reflected in the NSP reports. Lt. Sardino also pointed out that Sgt. Stanley Prue is now responsible for the Orange Watch program.

Nicole stated that Judicial Affairs has been taking proactive steps as well by doing presentations to students about off-campus issues, including open container ordinances.

V. New Business

A. Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services

Darya informed the group that her office has been reorganized and is now the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services. The phone number for the office is 443-5489. The staff includes Kerry Heckman Fiesinger as Program Coordinator and Tina Nguyen as Office Coordinator. Darya offered up the office’s new conference room as a possible meeting space in the future.

B. Syracuse Welcome

Darya discussed “Syracuse Welcome”, the events designed to welcome new and transferred students to Syracuse University. One of the events, “Pulse” encourages students to explore downtown Syracuse. It will take place on Saturday, August 29th and will conclude at 9:30 p.m. Darya is concerned that students may use this early return as an opportunity to explore off-campus activity (i.e. parties). Darya and Lt. Sardino discussed possibly setting up a table on Ostrom and Euclid to provide information to students regarding on-campus activities as well as city ordinances to proactively encourage them to be responsible. There is also a high level of patrol coverage that evening.

Darya also encouraged the group to volunteer for the Off-Campus Welcome Team, which gathers students, neighbors and SU faculty/staff to walk through the University neighborhood, speaking with off-campus students and providing necessary information. The event will take place on Sunday, August 30th at 12:30 at the Westcott Community Center, with lunch provided afterward by the Dinosaur Barbeque. Anyone interested should contact Darya’s office at 443-5489.

Also, Taste of Westcott is Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Irwin Methodist Church. The event welcomes off-campus students to the neighborhood by providing food samples from local restaurants as well as information from neighborhood associations, county/city departments and offices within SU that have resources for these students.

C. Orange Alert Siren

This fall, Syracuse University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be enhancing the Orange Alert system throughout both the Main and South campuses. DPS will be installing a siren on each campus in order to alert students outside that there is a potential threat in the area. This new feature adds to Orange Alert's rapid notification system which employs emails, text messaging, and cell/landline phone messages. The program alerts the SU community of a crisis situation in which there is an immediate threat of physical harm. The sirens have a range of approximately 1 mile and will be used only in conjunction with the Orange Alert system. When an emergency arises, the siren will sound multiple, continuous blasts. Members of the SU community are instructed to stay indoors until the siren has ceased. Anyone who would like additional information can contact Corey at codrisco@syr.edu.

D. Syracuse Police Department

Lt. Cecile notified the group that there will be some police officers in the Neighborhood Safety Patrol rotation that are new to the program. Lt. Cecile then confirmed with Lt. Sardino that all protocols have remained the same as past years.

E. Community Ambassadors

This fall, the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services will begin its community ambassador program. This program will match off-campus student leaders with targeted blocks in the University neighborhood. Selected students will serve as ambassadors and role models to the residents of the streets on which they are living. Community Ambassadors (CA) will serve as a point of contact for student-residents on their assigned block, provide access to resources and build community in order to ease the transition to off-campus living.

VI. Next Meeting

The group decided to meet in late October or early November, unless other issues arise.