

## **MEETING REPORT**

**TO:** John Sardino; Rami Badawy; Laura Madelone; Darya Rotblat; Harry Lewis; Capt. Paul Dillon; Sgt. Joe Cecile; Beth Rougeux; Corey Driscoll

**FROM:** Corey Driscoll

### **MEETING**

**DATE:** August 14, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Neighborhood Safety Patrol

**PRESENT:** John Sardino (SU Dept. of Public Safety); Sgt. Bill Wicks; Capt. Paul Dillon; 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. Corey highlighted the drop-off from the fall to the spring in terms of cases and arrests. Harry commented that the trend is consistent with previous years. Sgt. Wicks added that because the Syracuse Police Department (SPD) and SU's Department of Public Safety (DPS) are strict in their tolerance and enforcement during the first few weeks, the message to the students is clear and thus, deters further violations. John confirmed that this will be the approach for the upcoming year as well.

#### **III. Account Balances**

At the completion of the 2007-2008 academic year, the NSP funds used for weekday patrols was \$26,708.25 and the weekend patrols was \$44,456.93. Therefore, out of the \$75,000 of UNSAAC funds allotted for NSP, only \$3,834.82 remained at the end of the year. The group agreed that this is a pretty good turnout, and allows SPD and DPS to have some flexibility in terms of coverage.

#### **IV. 2008-09 Patrol Calendar**

Sgt. Wicks and John agreed that additional coverage should be added to the weekend of August 29-30. Corey said that she would make the necessary changes.

In terms of behavior trends in the neighborhood, Capt. Dillon and John discussed the increase in Onondaga Community College (OCC) students in the area surrounding SU. Capt. Dillon mentioned that he had met with Diane Dooley from the OCC Student Affairs' Office to try and solicit their cooperation in disciplining these students, according to both Syracuse city laws and the OCC Code of Student Conduct. After a brief discussion, Capt. Dillon decided to contact Ms. Dooley to see if she, or others from

OCC, would be interested in helping SU with its Syracuse Welcome to off-campus students.

In terms of the relationship between SPD and DPS, Sgt. Wicks and John agreed that the partnership continues to grow and run more smoothly. The only concern Sgt. Wicks voiced was that, on one occasion, the SPD responded to a noise complaint from a neighbor, but by the time the police officers arrived, DPS had already addressed the issue. SPD, therefore, was unable to issue a ticket and the neighbor was disappointed with that fact. John and Sgt. Wicks agreed to continue working on communication between the two departments.

With concerns for the fall, Sgt. Wicks brought up the question of whether a cell phone would be included in the NSP protocol, in response to request from neighbors. Corey and John agreed that SU would not be paying for the phone, which was also Harry's understanding. Sgt. Wicks said that he would follow up with Chief Barrett to determine the status of the cell phone. John questioned whether the cell phone would provide better service, since the police officer with the phone might be dealing with a current situation and unable to answer the phone, therefore frustrating the neighbor calling, or for non-emergencies, the officer might be unable to address the issue any faster than he/she would have if the call had gone through 911. The officer would likely be unable to do anything other than notify the neighbor that police will arrive as soon as they can. Since the phone would be operated by the SPD, Sgt. Wicks said that he would follow up on the issue, and share his information with the entire group.

Harry questioned whether it is possible for 911 to direct NSP officers to crimes elsewhere in the city, therefore taking them out of the area. Sgt. Wicks said that year after year, 911 continues to improve its dispatching of NSP officers only to the appropriate incidents. In his time in NSP, Sgt. Wicks could recall only one incident where he was dispatched to an incident out of the NSP area.

John also brought up the fact that calls from neighbors to DPS are coming from farther and farther outside of the immediate University area (i.e. calls are coming from Allen and Fellows). The group also discussed the number of students who are living outside of the University area, such as the James Street area, and the possible implications of that trend.

## **V. New Business**

Corey notified the group that the Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs (OCCP) had updated their publications, "Navigating the SU Community" and "An Insider's Guide to Living Off-Campus".

Corey also notified the group of the re-structuring of the University Neighborhood Partnership (UNP) to include neighbors and landlords from other neighborhoods to increase communication in the area surrounding the neighborhood.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

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