

Personal Safety Committee

February 12th, 2008

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Gerald Schoenle, Patrick Mahaney, Jane Fischer, Fred Wood, Sherri Darrow, Bob Innes, Elizabeth Lidano, Renee Greene, Ken Hood, David Foti, Jim Guy, Mary Clare-Fahey, Marilyn Kramer, Michelle Kleinfelder

- I. **Lighting Concerns** – The corridor lighting project is scheduled to begin in May. Light posts are being relabeled, so if the lights out they know exactly where the light is. A new vendor was called in to update the traffic signals; they are replacing the control boxes so that the UPD would be able to control the signals during events.
- II. **Blue Light Phones**– Landlines were trenched near Ellicott. VoIP phones are being installed, still problems with the E911 but it is being looked at.
- III. **Violence Prevention Team** – The Wellness department is in the process of getting a Department of Justice grant on Violence Prevention on College Campuses. They are also working with UPD in anti-rape training and prevention. AlcoholEdu results are in and they say that over 50% of students are non-drinkers and most drinking happens at house parties off campus. The Wellness department is also interested in changing the tobacco policies on campus.
- IV. **Anti-Rape Task Force** – The shuttles are running regularly, 1 per night, with 1 paid operator position open. Walk stations have shut down a few times because of students not showing up. There were many requests for the shuttles to go later in the night, the problem is finding people and funding to do it. Walk stations expanded weekends and later in the night but there are no paid positions. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes will be on April 17th with a special guest Assemblyman Sam Hoyt presenting a check for a new ARTF Van.
- V. **Fire & Life Safety Subcommittee** – An off campus student residence task force was implemented in response to a student who died in 1991 when he fell out of the third floor attic of a residence that was on fire. Last year there were 3 fires off campus and 1 arson involving student housing. The task force has banded together with local governments, schools, residences, landlords, BPD, and fire inspectors to bring up issues and address the problems, and to educate and inform parents and landlords. A survey of the off campus housing surrounding the University documented about 61 porches with furniture on it, which is against the law and a fire hazard. The second round of OFPC inspections have started and since the first round about four years ago violations have gone down dramatically, from 1,700 total to about 1.5 a building. Evacuation drills have also started. A Fire Prevention and Evacuation Planning group was started to make evacuations clear for buildings and communication between responders and the UPD easier.
- VI. **University Heights** – Few complaints. A PPTF meeting will be held soon. Mary Clare worked with the UPD and the Wellness Department on a safety fair at the beginning of the semester.
- VII. **Other Business** –
 - There was no meeting in January because of the new police officers being interviewed for the UPD.
 - Chief Schoenle handed out a sheet of Goals and Objectives of the UPD for 2008 which included:
 - New technology – mobile computers in cars, electronic fingerprinting, and updated record systems
 - Increased visibility
 - National Accreditation with CALEA
 - Sixteen elevators are in the process of being replaced starting June or July, mostly on South Campus. They were inspected by a 3rd party and they all needed to be upgraded and to be up to code.
 - In case of an emergency, UB ID cards for an “essential personnel” is being made.

- Off campus properties like the buildings downtown need facilities, either increase the man power or they will contract out.
- Chief Schoenle passed out crime statistics over 10 years and collectively crime has gone down. Car break-in's are up, but have decreased with increased police visibility.
- The overnight parking initiative with the Parking Department was a success.
- Patrick Mahaney representing the UB Medical School came to the meeting with concerns about the vehicle break-in's on South Campus, but was happy to see more police visibility. Another concern was the Campus Downtown and security, since medical students frequent the Hospitals daily. There are no University Police Officers currently stationed downtown. Renee Greene also pointed out that there is a new shuttle from South Campus to the Downtown campus.
- **Libraries** – The libraries have installed new security cameras/doors and are still working out some of the kinks. The concern about high school students not doing work in the libraries developed a letter banning the students from the libraries for a year if caught. No letters have been sent out yet.
- The UPD is working on starting a Citizens Police Academy this fall. It will expose people to the Departments operations and policing in Western New York. It will be about 6-8 weeks and is open to anyone who is interested!

There will be no Meeting in March.
Our next meeting will be April 22nd at 9am in Bissell Hall.