

University Hill Public Safety Association

University Hill Public Safety Association

April 20, 2016

Syracuse University Department of
Public Safety Office
130 College Place

11:00 am

MINUTES

Present: President Sardino, Msrs. Benedict, Brown, Ciciarelli, Daugherty, Dufford, Goodale, Maldonado, Robertson, Sweeny, Walsh, and Waltz

Guests: Ms. Alison Fineberg, Mr. Barry Weiss, Onondaga County District Attorney's Office

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2016

President Sardino called the meeting to order and he welcomed the members and guests present. He asked for approval of the minutes of February 17, 2016. Mr. Walsh moved, and Mr. Sweeny seconded a motion to approve the waiver of the reading of the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Sweeny moved, and Mr. Waltz seconded a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. CAMERA MAPPING PROJECT

A. UHPSA Project

Mr. Goodale demonstrated the camera mapping project which includes information from SUNY-ESF, the Hutchings Psychiatric Center, Syracuse University, Le Moyne, and Upstate. It has been captured on Google Maps and the information shows the general view and capabilities of the camera at each location. The goal is to put the information in the "members only" section of the UHPSA website, so members could see if there was a camera located in the area of an incident.

Mr. Sweeny asked whether it might be possible to be able to monitor an incident in real time. The goal would be to allow the SPD to look at an existing camera to monitor anything taking place. This is something the members will look into.

Mr. Walsh noted that the issue in real time monitoring are the federation license issues that exist. It should be possible given the IP address to allow SPD to look at them, however the

problem may be that the provider will want a subscriber fee for every new entity that can use the camera. Mr. Walsh noted that he does have that capability with Centro and can look at incidents taking place anywhere in the Centro system in real time. Mr. Dufford responded that Crouse has a different system and they may be able to allow the SPD to access the system and there wouldn't be an additional licensing fee for the SPD to use the cameras. Mr. Waltz noted that Upstate has one license for 270 cameras and it covers 12 different users.

Mr. Brown noted that Hutchings will be upgrading its cameras and it will be the first in the state to have that capability among all OMH institutions.

Mr. Sweeney noted that the SPD does have a concern with public cameras that are more than five or six years old as they are difficult to repair as parts have become unavailable. The life of these cameras may be no longer than that and they may need to be replaced. The depreciation and replacement costs would make a camera system prohibitive for smaller entities. Several of the members have maintenance agreements for their cameras to keep them up-to-date. Mr. Sardino noted that Syracuse University employs a person who has to check once a week to make sure that all cameras are in good operating condition, and so this can become a demanding maintenance and personnel task.

B. District Attorney's Project

Ms. Fineberg reported that she and Mr. Weiss met with CenterState CEO to ask their cooperation in distributing a letter to member businesses with a request from the District Attorney to start a similar camera mapping project but to do it county-wide. This would allow the location of cameras to be shared through the LEEDS system, and to allow law enforcement agencies to capture the digital evidence that may exist from private cameras as well as cameras that were put in place by police agencies. Mr. Mankiewicz informed them about the camera mapping project that UHPSA had underway. They would like the opportunity to include these cameras in the system. They will send a letter to the institutions with this request.

One concern raised was whether or not the camera location map would be subject to the freedom of information law if it was given to the District Attorney's Office. Ms. Fineberg noted that there are exceptions to the FOIL Law, including a public safety exception. Any use that would be made to gather information for a criminal investigation is not FOIL-able. *[editor's note: Ms. Fineberg contacted us later to state that the District Attorney's Office had completed its review and determined that information on the location of cameras that could potentially be used in a criminal investigation would also be not FOIL-able. This is an important assurance as we had told all the UHPSA members that the location of the cameras would remain confidential.]*

III. EDUCATION PRESENTATION: Resources of the District Attorney's Office to Support UHPSA

Members

Ms. Fineberg noted that her job was primarily in communication and to help individuals in law enforcement agencies navigate the system.

1. She noted that at times it can be intimidating to deal with the office. She is the conduit for communication with UHPSA.

2. A second resource offered by the District Attorney's Office is the answering of legal questions for law enforcement agencies. These questions often address to criminal law charging decisions and changes in the law.
3. A third resource is that she supervises city, town, and village courts, and so she sees every case that is going before those courts. She noted if one of the members was looking for a particular case, she would be a good person to start with in the office to identify where it is and its status.
4. She also noted that the District Attorney's Office has committees in which law enforcement officers can engage.
5. If the law enforcement agencies facing an issue, she can give her suggestions. She noted that the patient prosecution policy is a great example of that work.
6. The District Attorney's Office also has a database for cases and results. This can be valuable to law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Daugherty noted that Ms. Fineberg has been very helpful in figuring out jurisdictional issues and that she has been able to facilitate Upstate's use of District Attorney's Office and he recommended that other members call her if they need any assistance in the office.

IV. MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL ON 1-81

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that the University Hill Board had met with New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Matthew Driscoll on April 1. The Commissioner did not identify a particular approach or option for the future of Interstate 81, but he did lay out a precise schedule. The Commissioner expects that the draft environmental impact statement on I-81 will be complete by the end of December 2016. There will be a series of information sessions and stakeholder engagement work and after that, the Commissioner will make his recommendations to Governor Cuomo. He expects that the Governor will make his final decision on which option to use sometime in the second quarter of 2017. Commissioner Driscoll is hopeful that he can have the solution under construction by the middle of 2018. The Commissioner would like to see construction take no more than five years to complete.

The Commissioner also noted that there is work that will be underway as early as next year (2017) on some of the key projects that need to be in place before the I-81 main project begins. One of the will be the Teall Avenue interchange with Interstate 690. This will be a main entrance to University Hill that the state hopes to use as an alternative access point to University Hill during construction. This should be a fairly substantial project that may change the nature of the intersection at Teall Avenue. It is possible that NYSDOT will use a round-a-bout at that location to connect Teall, 690, Canal Street, and ultimately Erie Boulevard.

V. SECURITY INCIDENTS/CONSTRUCTION REPORTS

Mr. Sweeny reported that the Mountain Goat will take place on Sunday, May 1. He reminded that it would be difficult to get around the Hill and downtown during that day. He also asked if members had support staff they could contribute, SPD would appreciate that help.

Mr. Benedict asked Mr. Sweeny about an Ash Street homicide and whether it was gang related. Mr. Sweeny noted that there is very little information but the victim was wearing a mask, but this shooting involved a group of immigrants attacking a non-immigrant and that this may be retaliation for some of the incidents against immigrants that have taken place in recent years.

Mr. Walsh noted that Centro plans to update its camera system. Bus videos will now be available for up to 30 days.

Mr. Waltz noted that he is preparing for campus public safety to transition to its new headquarters at Clark Tower. He may talk to SUNY-ESF about the opportunity for joint dispatching. He continues to transition from hired security to sworn officers. Mr. Waltz also noted that the Ambulatory Care Center is advancing. This is a \$150 million building that is proposed for the site in front of the garage at Almond and Adam Streets.

Mr. Dufford noted that Crouse is also starting work on its emergency room projects as of May 4. Mr. Waltz also noted in Mr. LeRoy's absence that SUNY-ESF is planning to put a research building on its main campus between Moon and Illick.

Mr. Daugherty noted that there has been some recent car break-ins and they believe that two people have been engaged in those break-ins. Generally they have been targeting electronics within the vehicles and it appears that they are moving those electronics to other cities to sell.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN

Mr. Waltz noted that he could make Chris Dunham available for the next meeting on June 15 and the purpose of the meeting would be to plan for another tabletop security exercise.

With no further business to become before the board, Mr. Waltz moved and Mr. Daugherty seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.