

# University Hill Public Safety Association

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June 21, 2017

Syracuse University Department of  
Public Safety Office  
130 College Place

11:00 am

### MINUTES

Present: Chief LeRoy, Vice President; Messrs. Goldacker, Goodale, Petterelli, Sweeny, Walsh

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

#### **I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2017**

Vice President LeRoy called the meeting to order and welcomed the members present. Mr. Sweeny moved and Mr. Petterelli seconded a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. The Minutes of April 26, 2017 were unanimously approved.

#### **II. MEETING WITH DAN WEARS AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN**

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that Chief Sardino and he had met with Dan Wears, Onondaga County Commissioner of Emergency Management, to review the emergency evacuation plan. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that this was a follow-up on the last meeting where the members had reviewed the plan from 1998, which essentially recommended employers to release people from the center city in the event of a snow emergency starting with the employees who live over 10 miles away first, and those that live between 3-10 miles away second, and then those who live within three miles, last. It was noted that this plan was drafted long before internet technology was popular and still relied on the emergency broadcast system.

Mr. Wears agreed that the plan was dated but was probably still the current plan for evacuation of the center city. Mr. Wears recommended that the UHPSA ask for a meeting which would include the City of Syracuse DPW commissioner and the Onondaga County transportation commissioner, and possibly officials from New York State Department of Transportation in addition to him to consider if the plan needs to be updated. Staff will follow up and contact the individuals involved to invite them to discuss the plan. Chief LeRoy noted that it would be important to have the right people involved in the meeting and so the committee will follow-up.

### **III. SUMMER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Mr. LeRoy noted that the first training opportunity was successful and attracted about 40 participants from eight agencies including Syracuse Police Department officers and officers from SUNY Upstate and other participating institutions. He noted that there were still seats available for the Reid School of Investigation. He also noted that Syracuse University is holding a leadership training for first line commanders that will also be coming up very shortly.

### **IV. S.U. SUMMER DRILL UPDATE**

In the absence of Mr. Sardino, Mr. Mankiewicz noted that Chief Sardino had noted that Syracuse University will be holding a summer drill preferably on August 1. The event is an active shooter drill. Other organizations will be invited to participate.

### **V. REVIEW OF RECENT CRIME STATISTICS**

Mr. Mankiewicz distributed a summary of crime statistics from the southeast area of the city. The data had been obtained from the Syracuse Police Department website and cover the neighborhoods of University Hill, Outer Comstock, the near Eastside, Westcott Street, the University neighborhood south campus, Salt Springs, and Meadowbrook. The data includes all of 2014, all of 2015 and the first nine months of 2016. There is a significant drop in crime from serious part one crimes through the three years, although the last year is only a partial year and does not include data on larceny from motor vehicles which is one of the more common of crimes in the University Hill area. The trend was unmistakably clear that there is a decline in crime, and actually declining the most in the neighborhoods closest to the center of the city and tends to be more stable in the neighborhoods furthest from the center of the city. Mr. Sweeny agreed that the data mirrors the actual situation in the City of Syracuse where there tends to be a steady reduction in crime in the last three years.

### **VI. SECURITY CONCERNS AND CONSTRUCTION ISSUES**

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the construction on Waverly Avenue continues on schedule, however Waverly Avenue will be shut down most of the rest of the summer through mid-August. All of the infrastructure work being done is in anticipation of the construction of the new National Veterans Resource Complex. The design of the building is moving forward. City approvals are expected in a month and construction is anticipated before the end of the year.

Mr. Mankiewicz also reported on Syracuse 727 which is the eight-story mixed-use student housing and commercial building that is going up on the 700 block of South Crouse Avenue. The contractor has reported that demolition is complete. Foundation work will start within two weeks. The cranes will arrive in mid-September and the building will be noticeable rising by October. The goal is to finish the project by August of 2018. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that no combustible materials will be used in the construction of the building.

Concern was raised about the relocation of Hungry Charlie's. The restaurant was closed in order to make way for Syracuse 727. There is a rumor that Hungry Charlie's may be relocated to the second floor of the wood frame house above the Shirt World Store. This raised a fire safety concern given the age of the wood frame structure, and its size, and the challenge of evacuating that in the event of a fire.

Mr. LeRoy noted again that the State Chiefs are coming July 23-26. There will be a large number of people attending the conference.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN**

With no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Walsh moved and Mr. Goldacker seconded a motion to adjourn the UHPSA meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.