

University Hill Public Safety Association

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February 17, 2016

Syracuse University Department of
Public Safety Office
130 College Place

11:00 am

MINUTES

Present: President Sardino, Msrs. Benedict, Brown, Goodale, Petterelli, Robertson, Sweeny, Tetrault

Guests: Mr. Van Antwerp, NYSUP

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2015

President Sardino called the meeting to order and he welcomed the members present. He introduced Captain Joseph Sweeny of the Syracuse Police Department, who is a new member of the University Hill Public Safety Association. Mr. Sardino asked for a waiver of the reading of the minutes of December 16, 2015. Mr. Tetrault moved and Mr. Petterelli seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Tetrault moved and Mr. Petterelli seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. MAP OF CAMERA LOCATIONS

Mr. Goodale gave an update on the map of camera locations. He has received information from most of the members and is working to put those on a single map. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the purpose of the project is to respond to a request from the University Hill Corporation Board for the UHPSA to recommend whether there is a need to locate more cameras on University Hill. The map will also provide the members with the opportunity to determine in the event of an incident whether someone may have had a camera that would have tracked it. Once the map is developed, Mr. Goodale could keep it updated. Captain Sweeny noted that the SPD at this time did not have any cameras in the University Hill area nor has plan for any. He also noted that some of the neighborhood groups have secured funding through NYS Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli to pay for the installation of the cameras.

III. NEW UHPSA WEB PAGE

Mr. Goodale, Mr. Mankiewicz and Ms. Reed had met regarding the creation of an updated web presence for the UHPSA. The draft had been sent out to members and changes have been made based on the request of the members. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the website will provide a "Members Only" portion to which access would be password protected. This would allow the members to share confidential information on one section of the site that the general public could not see. The members discussed the opportunity to post informational items, training videos, information about road closures, events, and any information regarding crime or incidents. Other purposes that members suggested were listing of special events, weather alerts, news and security alerts. Mr. Tetrault also suggested that it would be valuable to receive notification when anything was added to it so the members could review it. The members also discussed that among the audiences for the site in addition to the UHPSA members would include business organizations around the Hill, and neighborhood TNT or neighborhood watch groups that are located near to University Hill.

IV. INCIDENTS/CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Tetrault noted that Crouse is still proceeding with its emergency department expansion. The work will start in 2016, although most of the work during 2016 will only take place in spaces between Upstate and Crouse and won't impact any other traffic. In 2017, there will be construction that will impact the traffic on Irving Avenue. Mr. Tetrault also noted that the Crouse shuttles have also been outfitted with cameras, so as the Centro buses have cameras that can monitor what's going on around them; the Crouse shuttles do as well. Members can request that information from Mr. Tetrault.

Mr. Brown noted that Hutchings was going to start its building project shortly. This will continue the extensive campus renovations that have been taking place for two years.

Mr. Benedict noted that St. Joseph's had a car stolen from its property. It was the first car theft they have had in several years. In the case of this theft, the owner of the car had left the door unlocked and left a spare key in the cup holder.

Mr. Sardino noted that the student death that happened this month on campus was a likely suicide.

Mr. Sardino noted that Syracuse University is continuing a plan for the construction of its new building for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families. The building is going to be built on the corner of South Crouse and Waverly Avenue, and will probably start construction sometime this year. He also noted that there is going to be improvements along University Place that will be built this summer. The University is also in a discussion regarding another parking garage in the Dome west area. Although it is not scheduled to be built this year, he also noted that because of the potential construction of the Carrier Dome, a lot of parking at Syracuse University will be relocated and it is possible that a large number of S.U. employees will have new parking spaces by next August.

Mr. Sardino also reported that there will be work underway on the utility lines from the S.U. steam station. He noted that Irving Avenue will be closed at night and the work will be done on the east side of Irving first and then it will move to the west side of the street. There will be single lane reductions at night and during the day, the excavation will be plated over.

V. DISCUSSION OF UHPSA INITIATIVES FOR 2016

President Sardino asked for the members to provide some ideas regarding topics they would like to have discussed during the year. Among the topics suggested would be:

- 1) Active shooter training; and to ask Upstate to show the members what they are providing as training for their employees.
- 2) To repeat last year's tabletop drill which took place last spring. There will be a request made to see if Chris Dunham – SUNY Upstate, can coordinate this again. It was noted that the drill actually can account for security accreditation for the hospitals, so it would be valuable to repeat it.

Mr. Benedict asked if there could be a discussion among the hospitals about how they are dealing with medical marijuana. When patients are bringing it in with them, hospitals are usually supposed to take medications away from the patients. In this case they are not taking the medication. The hospital pharmacies don't want it, and there is a question as to how it should be handled and whether or not the Syracuse Police Department has to be notified. Captain Sweeny noted that if there is legal prescription, it is unlikely that the Syracuse Police Department will take it. He recommended that the District Attorney's Office be contacted. President Sardino also suggested that perhaps the group contact the NYS Attorney General's Office with regard to this issue.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN

With no further business to become before the meeting, it was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.