

University Hill Public Safety Association

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August 17, 2016

Syracuse University Department of
Public Safety Office
130 College Place

11:00 am

MINUTES

Present: President Sardino, Messrs. Brown, Daugherty, Goodale, Maldonado, McClellan, Norris, Petterelli, Robertson, Riley, Walsh

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2016

President Sardino called the meeting to order and he welcomed the members present. Mr. Petterelli moved to waive the reading of the minutes and Mr. Maldonado seconded that motion. Mr. Walsh then moved to approve the minutes as distributed and Mr. Petterelli seconded that motions. The motions were unanimously approved.

II. SCHEDULE FOR THE MOVE-IN OF STUDENTS

A. Syracuse University/ESF

President Sardino noted that early arrivals will be coming in on the 19th and they are trying to push as many students as possible up to the 19th. They are expecting to get about 1,000 more including all the student athletes, student employees and international students. He noted that Wednesday, August 22 and Thursday, August 23 will be the peak days as all the freshman will be coming back on those two days. The upper classmen will be coming back on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the rates will be the same as last year. The traffic plan will be the same as last year. The promenade construction really will have no impact on the traffic. There is a healthy freshman class coming in and as a result, the fourth floor of the Sheraton will house 60 upper classmen and the third floor of the Sheraton will house 60 freshman.

B. Le Moyne

Mr. Petterelli noted that the freshman move in next Friday, August 26. When the freshman move in, there are always traffic issues on Springfield Road. However the traffic issues there usually only last between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon, and the traffic dissipates after that.

III. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CAMERA SECURITY

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the committee on camera security had included Chief LeRoy, Andy Mrozienski from Syracuse University, Mr. Goodale and Mr. Dufford who met and reviewed the maps that were submitted by the institutions. The only map that needs to be added is one from the Veteran's Administration and Mr. Robertson is making arrangements with Mr. Goodale to do that. The committee reviewed the maps and made a series of recommendations which is attached as Appendix "A" to these minutes. While the committee cited several areas of concern, they noted that the leading area of concern are some of the major intersections on the public streets such as Marshall and Crouse, Adams and Crouse, and Adams and University. Some of the institutions had cameras that could look into these spaces, but the only way they were able to do that was by taking their cameras off the missions that they were actually intended for. Therefore the number one recommendation was to secure additional cameras which can watch these spaces as their main mission. The committee also recommended that the camera security map be updated on a regular basis to reflect the construction of new buildings and where new cameras are being placed. The committee also noted that there are several student housing projects that are being built and proposed by private sector developers and that several of these are in locations that are important for camera security. They recommended that all of the developers be requested to install not only cameras within their buildings, but cameras external to their buildings to allow security to monitor what is happening on the streets around their buildings. Several of those new buildings will be at a distance from the main campus locations and it would be important to offer that security to students who would have to walk back and forth between the campus and their residences.

After discussion, Mr. Brown moved, and President Sardino seconded a motion to forward the recommendation on camera security to the University Hill Board and to ask the University Hill Board members to either fund or to seek funds for its implementation.

IV. SECURITY INCIDENTS/CONCERNS

President Sardino noted that there have been numerous bicycle larcenies around the Syracuse University campus. Mr. Daugherty also reported that there have been bicycle larcenies around SUNY Upstate. Mr. Daugherty also reported on a suspicious incident where an individual claiming to be a student was seen in the area between the Veteran's Administration Medical Center and Upstate Medical University. It turned out that he was not a student at the University and that this is the second time he has come into the area and they know he is staying at a home at Kensington Place. When they checked out all of his claims, all of them proved to be not true. Upstate will distribute a picture of the individual to the other members.

V. CONSTRUCTION REPORTS

President Sardino reported that the promenade is on schedule and will open next week. In the future, it will be limited to emergency vehicles only. He also noted that the University is beginning the demolition of the Hoople Building along South Crouse and Marshall Streets. This is where the new National Veteran's Resource Complex is going to be built. The construction schedule on that project will be for a period of two years.

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that one of the student housing project proposed by developer Chris Geiger and the Michaels Organization is going through the approval process at the Board of Zoning Appeals and the City Planning Commission. The project will consist of approximately 120 units and could house 350 students. The project will actually be built in five separate buildings and one of the buildings will be a parking facility with about 90 spaces that will serve the complex. The project is

being built at the corner of East Genesee and Walnut Avenue. There is currently a small medical office building on the site which is planned for demolition. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that there was a pipeline of approximately five or six more of these projects which are being proposed for various locations on University Hill. He noted that the proposed 17-story development at University and Adams, the developer had adjourned his petitions at both the BZA and the Planning Commission. They met with the Syracuse University and University Hill Corporation and are trying to determine a way to redesign the projects, so it is not as tall as currently proposed which is 17 stories. In order to reduce the height of the building they may consider putting parking underground. That project will probably advance again early in the fall.

Chief Brown reported that Hutchings is starting its Phase III of its construction project. The fencing will be going up on September 1 and construction will start by the 30th. The project will likely be under construction for the next two years and although there won't be any impact on the streets, there are several sidewalks and paths through the campus that will be closed for the construction. These are often used by employees by Upstate Medical University.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that Chris Dunham had asked if there were elements that the University Hill Public Safety Association wanted included in the scenario he was developing for the tabletop. The UHPSA provided three responses:

1. They would like the scenario to test communications among the institutions and with the governmental public safety agencies. They noted that communications is always an issue in these drills.
2. They want to make sure the Syracuse Police Department will participate. John Sardino will contact Joe Sweeny and will be asking for SPD and their emergency manager, Dave Mrizio to participate in the drill.
3. Another goal is to involve the institutions and to engage administrators who are responsible for emergency management. They believe that this will test internal communications within the institutions. The UHPSA will try to engage them early in the process and get them to schedule to participate in the tabletop.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walsh moved and Mr. Goodale seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

RECOMENDATION FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAMERA SECURITY

UNIVERSITY HILL PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION

The institutional members supplied the maps of their camera locations to the UHPSA to examine issues and gaps in University Hill coverage. The recommendations of the subcommittee were as follows:

1. The highest priority need is to get better camera coverage in the Crouse Marshall area. In particular the intersections of Crouse and Marshall, Crouse and Adams, and Marshall and University lack adequate coverage. These may be seen from other existing camera locations, but to watch these major intersections with cameras that were deployed to do something else undermines their original mission. Dedicated cameras for these locations are needed.
2. Two related sites that lack cameras are priorities for surveillance are the alley locations: (1) the alley that leads from Crouse Avenue to the rear of the Marshall Square mall, and the alley from Crouse Avenue that goes to the space behind the Dellas properties and to the rear entrance of the Physicians' Office Building.
3. Other areas of concern identified were: (1) Walnut Park, (2) Waverly Avenue-which may be rectified with the construction of the building for the IV&MF, (3) the area around Weiskotten Hall on the Upstate campus, (4) Monroe Avenue at the rear of SUNY Upstate's Cancer Center, (5) external cameras on the main campus of Syracuse University, and (6) the parking lot behind Marshall Square mall with its entrance from Adams Street, and (7) East Genesee Street.
4. While we received information from most of the members, there are cameras that are owned by businesses which may not be posted.
5. There may also be an opportunity to add to the array of cameras as the Crouse emergency department project is built, as well as Upstate's new Ambulatory Care Center, which could provide camera monitoring of the Adams Street entrance to University Hill as well as to the facility.
6. To make it as easy as possible to use the map as an effective tool, it would be best if all of the camera locations were consolidated on one map, even if we have to give up some information to get to it. It will also be imperative to keep in updated, as new camera locations have been added since this data was originally submitted. There must be a continuing commitment to provide the information from all of the contributors.
7. With all of the private student housing projects being built, and since their success is tied to the students' perception of safety of these buildings, we would recommend that the city of Syracuse require all of these projects to install cameras on their property which would allow the project entrances and the streets that lead to them to be monitored.