

University Hill Public Safety Association

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December 20, 2017

Syracuse University Department of
Public Safety Office
130 College Place

11:00 am

MINUTES

Present: President Sardino, Messrs. Brown, Donovan, Riley, Walsh

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF JUNE 21 AND OCTOBER 18, 2017

President Sardino called the meeting to order and welcomed the members present. Mr. Brown moved and Mr. Walsh seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes of June 21 and October 18 as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. NOMINATION OFFICERS

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that under the bylaws of the University Hill Public Safety Association, the last meeting of the year is the meeting to nominate a slate of officers for the following year which is acted on of the first meeting of the new year. He noted that Chief Sardino had served his two-year term and therefore Vice President Tom LeRoy would automatically succeed to the presidency with the next meeting. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that a new vice president would have to be elected to replace Mr. LeRoy and Mr. Goodale has been serving as the secretary of the board.

Chief Sardino noted that Detective Paul Daugherty from SUNY Upstate had expressed interest in a leadership role with University Hill Public Safety Association, therefore Chief Sardino moved, and Mr. Walsh seconded a motion to nominate a slate of: Mr. Thomas LeRoy from SUNY-ESF as president, Mr. Paul Daugherty from SUNY Upstate as Vice President, and Mr. Chris Goodale from SUNY Upstate as Corporate Secretary. The motion was unanimously approved and that slate will be put in nomination for final action at the February meeting.

III. STABBING INCIDENT ON MARSHALL STREET

Chief Sardino reported that the stabbing incident occurred at The Acropolis. He noted the similarities to three previous events. Video tapes revealed that people came up to the restaurant after 2:00am. An argument broke outside the restaurant. One person struck another with a tray and other people pulled out their knives and two other people were stabbed. Chief Sardino reported that Syracuse Police Department has made an arrest of the person that did the stabbing but they are now searching for a second person who was involved. Chief Sardino noted that all the individuals involved were non-students.

Chief Sardino noted that Syracuse University is concerned and noted that The Acropolis is one of the few places that is open at 2:30 in the morning. He noted that last year in the Marshall Street shooting incident there was 12 shell casings found in the street. The University would like to see what could be done to persuade The Acropolis to close earlier. While there are a couple of more places that are open after 2:00am, no other place has been a focus for these types of violent altercations.

Chief Sardino also noted that some of the restaurants along Marshall Street have the privilege of allowing S.U. students to charge meals on a student I.D. meal card. The University may review if it should take that privilege away from them and force students to pay cash who might be there. There is a police detail of eight officers Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, four from DPS and four from SPD, and at least one of those units sits on Marshall Street particularly around The Acropolis after 1:30am. The police have also been aggressive about writing tickets in the area for illegal parking to try to keep any negative elements away from the restaurant and Marshall Street.

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the City of Syracuse had created a licensing procedure for these places for restaurants and retail businesses within the city. The purpose of the licensing procedure was to be able to act in situation like this one since there had been multiple violent incidents at this location and to raise whether there is an opportunity to review and if necessary take the license away from The Acropolis.

After discussion the members decided we should follow the Syracuse Police Department's lead, be ready to write letters and provide support for anything they wanted to do to address the situation. The president will contact Joe Sweeny to follow up on the incident.

IV. CONSTRUCTION AND SECURITY ISSUES

Chief Sardino noted that the construction on National Veterans Resource Center at Waverly and South Crouse Avenue will soon kick into high gear. He noted that contaminants are being removed from the site and soon the foundation will be going in. There may be some times during construction when a lane on Crouse Avenue may be impacted, but he also noted that this was likely to be early morning closures for 10 or 15 minutes to allow delivery of steel to the site. He also noted that this summer there will be more steam work done along Forestry Drive and Simms, and traffic would have to be re-routed.

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that all three of the student housing projects, The Marshall on Crouse Avenue, Theory Syracuse in the 900 block of East Genesee Street and 505 on Walnut which is on

the 1200 block of East Genesee Street, continue on schedule for construction and all are expected to be completed by August of 2018. The three buildings contain 1,275 beds which are marketed toward students to live in the University Hill area. These projects are in addition to Aspen Heights which is located in the Outer Comstock area. In August of 2017, Aspen Heights opened and has 420 beds.

There are two smaller projects, one proposed by Norm Swanson in the 1000 block of East Genesee Street to renovate the former Ronald McDonald House for about 72 beds of housing and one in the 900 block of East Fayette which will generate another 30-40 units that will also be aimed at students and young professionals.

There is also a much larger project proposed in the 700 block of East Genesee Street for 191 apartment units at the site of the former First Church of Christ Scientist on Forman Park. He noted that this project has received all its approvals and the New York City developers likely to move forward with it this spring, although that one is not going to be marketed directly to students.

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that this development of new housing may need to trigger the University Hill Public Safety Association members to change their pattern of patrolling since it is going to create a major focus for student housing along East Genesee Street, as well as in the middle of the Crouse-Marshall business district.

Mr. Sardino noted that the University has monthly meetings with the landlords and he anticipates that the rents in the University Hill neighborhood are going to come down as students shift to the new housing. He noted that so far the Aspen Heights project is working out as it offers 24 hours security, but he also noted that even before the three major ones are open, every street in the neighborhoods to the east of University Hill have "For Rent" signs that are up. Syracuse University may add another patrol for the north side of the campus. However, Chief Sardino noted that on their Thursday to Saturday night patrols they ask for four SPD officers to work overtime and he noted that it was becoming increasingly hard to secure the SPD officers to work all of the overtime shifts.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Interstate 81

Mr. Mankiewicz explained that the NYS Department of Transportation had released the WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff study on tunnels. While the study found that the tunnels were feasible, that they would be expensive to build and would take up to 10 years to construct them between downtown and the University Hill area. The consultant's study reached a conclusion similar to the studies that NYSDOT has done earlier. Ultimately, WSP had identified four possible tunnel routes and picked a short tunnel that runs along the path of Almond Street as the one most likely to be feasible to be built. That one still costs \$3.6 billion and will take nine years to build. The community grid would be built alongside or with this tunnel to provide the operating capacity that is needed to move the vehicles if there was no longer a viaduct.

The next big decision on the part of the state is whether or not to put a tunnel into the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement). *[Editor's note: after the meeting and at the State of the State message, Governor Cuomo announced that he would ask NYSDOT to conduct a thorough review as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of a*

tunnel option.] Since NYSDOT has eliminated the tunnel options before they had no detailed engineering information for the option which NYSDOT said would take them some six months to design, then another 12-18 months to analyze the impact of a tunnel option on local environment. NYSDOT Region 3 is warning that adding the tunnel option could actually add two years to the delay in building some solution for Interstate 81. But since the Governor has committed to include the tunnel, it appears that will be the path forward. With the delay there may be opportunities to develop alternative transportation systems such as Park-n-Ride alternatives, however Mr. Mankiewicz noted there was also a risk that funding for the federal side of the tunnel could be jeopardized as the Federal Highway Trust Fund is approaching insolvency and the Trump Administration has indicated an interest in having a state's localities and the private sector entities get more engaged in shouldering the cost of building of infrastructure.

VI. ADJOURN

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