

University Hill Public Safety Association

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February 21, 2018

Syracuse University Department of
Public Safety Office
130 College Place

11:00 am

Present: President LeRoy, Messrs. Bresett, Brown, Daugherty, Goldacker, Goodale, Masner, Sardino, and Sweeney

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- New UHPSA officers for 2018 are elected: Tom LeRoy, President, Paul Daugherty, Vice President, Chris Goodale, Secretary
- UHPSA website to be completed. Members asked to update camera maps. Contact Mr. Chris Goodale, Senior Staff Assistant & Information Coordinator, Office of the Chief, NYS University Police, goodalec@upstate.edu, (315) 464-4169.
- New table top drill for 2018 to be scheduled for the fall.
- Upstate caught a sex offender in the Harrison Street Garage.
- Crouse has had challenges with aggressive panhandlers in and around their parking facilities in the early morning.
- Work on Irving Avenue in front of Crouse Hospital will begin March 19, the road will remain open.

CONTACTS:

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Staff: David Mankiewicz, 315-475-7244
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I. **WELCOME AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2017**

President LeRoy called the meeting to order and he welcomed the members present. He asked for review and approval of minutes from December 20, 2017. Mr. Sweeny moved and Mr. Daugherty seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the UHPSA Bylaws called for nominations in the last meeting of the year and election of officers is to take place at the first meeting of the year. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that nominations were made at the previous meeting and that the slate nominated as officers for 2018 were: Tom LeRoy – President, Paul Daugherty – Vice President, Chris Goodale – Secretary. Mr. Sardino moved and Mr. Goldacker seconded a motion to close the nominations and to elect the slate as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. **PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY HILL PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION**

Chief LeRoy noted that the UHPSA is a proven method of exchanging information among the members. He asked the members to think about what they would like the organization to accomplish during the year. He noted that there was a number of good initiatives that have been started and that we need to finish them and complete them. Among these he noted:

- 1) ***The map of cameras on University Hill*** – Mr. LeRoy asked that members of the organization regularly update their information on the maps. He would also like to determine a method by which cameras that are owned by businesses or others on University Hill could be identified.
- 2) ***Notification of businesses*** – in our last two table top drills, issues were identified where the businesses need to be told about a security issue or given direction about how to respond. Mr. Mankiewicz noted that a real example occurred about a month ago with the incident of a suspicious package that was left in front of the Post Office at Marshall Square Mall. He noted that the office manager at KeyBank had seen the police officers around the mall, realized that something was going on but didn't know how they should respond or what action they should take. While Mr. Sardino and Mr. Mankiewicz talked about the incident on the day that it occurred, at that time it was too late to give directions to the businesses. Chief LeRoy noted that the University Hill Corporation maintains email addresses for businesses in the Crouse-Marshall District, the East Genesee Regent business district as well as most of the major property owners on University Hill. He would like to see a system to disseminate information to those businesses. The system would allow the information to be passed on to University Hill Corporation to be distributed to the businesses in real time.
- 3) ***Marshall Street and the specific issues of the Acropolis*** – how can UHPSA fully support the City of Syracuse in efforts to address the continuing problems linked to the Acropolis Restaurant?
- 4) ***The website*** – Mr. Sardino noted that the website was key to increasing the visibility and would be an opportunity for the organization for more public relations. Mr. Mankiewicz agreed and noted that work on the website had been concluded, however the cost of bringing the website public proved to be a stumbling block. Mr. Mankiewicz will make

sure the website is completed and will ask University Hill Corporation to cover the cost of keeping it active.

- 5) ***The Emergency Evacuation Plan*** – as a follow-up to our last tabletop drill, members of the UHPSA met with Dan Wears at the 911 Center to discuss the emergency evacuation plan for the center city. The plan is over 25 years old and was devised at a time before the widespread use of the cellphone. The plan should be updated such that if the protocol identified in the plan is still used, the plan should be amended with respect to the technology by which the public is notified.

IV. PANHANDLERS

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that Mr. Dufford from Crouse has asked that this item be added to the agenda but he could not attend this morning's meeting. His concern was the increasing number of incidents of aggressive panhandling which are taking place in the Crouse parking lots. He noted that these incidents were largely taking place between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. in the morning at the D-Lot at Adams and Irving, or at the H-Lot at Adams and South Crouse. He noted that there was one female and two males involved in these incidents and they have been following people from their cars all the way to the hospital. He also noted that there was an attempted robbery in the garage that also took place at 8:50 a.m. in the morning. His thought was is that Curtis Henderson might be involved in this incident and he was looking for confirmation of Mr. Henderson's whereabouts on the date the incident took place.

Mr. Sweeny noted that these problems are typical and that the Syracuse Police Department will respond to complaint, but in order to make a harassment charge stick, they have to have a complaint from a victim. Often times the victims don't want to press charges and won't sign the complaint. He also recommended that Crouse post the two parking lots with "No Trespassing" sign as it is easier for the Police Department to arrest individuals on a trespassing complaint, however all this may accomplish is getting them out of the lot as opposed to out of the area. Mr. Sweeny noted that he would like to see some regulations that would control individuals who stop and give money to panhandlers. He noted a panhandler can be ticketed if they are in a state highway right-of-way and if they are interfering with traffic. He was suggesting the same penalty might be applied to a driver who stopped along a city street or a county road to give money to panhandlers. They can also create hazards for other drivers. Mr. Sweeny noted that most of the judges continue to throw out any simple panhandling complaints. However, other municipalities have created "begging areas" so they were able to restrict where panhandlers could solicit money.

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that there have been court tests of cases that have restricted areas of economic necessity and prohibited panhandling within those areas. He noted there was a case where a city in Florida was able to ban panhandling from its beach and the courts were able to uphold that. As a follow-up, Mr. Mankiewicz will do some research and determine what ordinances have been found constitutional in the New York State or Federal Courts to see if there is any useful approach that could assist the situation in the City of Syracuse. He noted that identifying the potential ordinance was only the first step, and that it would be important to make sure there was sufficient support from the Mayor's Office and the Common Council before any resolution was put forward. He noted in the past that the Council could be skeptical about panhandling ordinances and they would often times come under fire from groups like the ACLU and the Syracuse Newspapers.

V. TABLETOP DRILL FOR 2018

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the UHPSA has held a tabletop drill twice in the last three years. He asked if the group would like to do it again in 2018. The UHPSA members agreed that this would be useful. Mr. Daugherty contacted Mr. Dunham who agreed to work on a drill for this fall. Mr. Dunham will be invited to a future meeting and work with the members to help build a scenario around which the drill will be based.

VI. SECURITY ISSUES AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Daugherty noted that the SUNY Upstate Medical University had arrested an individual in the Harrison Street Garage who was trying to enter cars driven by women and pull them out of the car. They identified the individual as Gregory Archambeau, and noted that he is a sex offender who has failed to register. He is 40 years old, blond hair, scruffy beard and has been wearing a green army jacket, jeans and boots. He is now in the justice center for violation of his sex offender status.

Mr. Sardino reported that steel will begin to come out of the ground over the next couple of months for the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) that is being built on Crouse Avenue between Waverly Avenue and Marshall Street. That project will be built over the next couple of years. At this time it is unlikely there will be any impact on the surrounding streets except to allow steel deliveries to take place. The remodeling of the Archbold Gym is moving forward.

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that Mr. Dufford wanted everyone to know that on March 19 there will be construction work that will begin on Irving Avenue in front of Crouse Hospital. On that day the main lobby will shut down and the former emergency room lobby will be used as the temporary main entrance until the work is complete. He noted that employee drop-offs will now need to be around the back and visitors should use the tunnel between the garage and hospital under Irving Avenue. He noted that during the construction, Irving may be reduced a little but will not be closed and that the Irving Avenue lobby of the hospital will not reopen until the end of September.

Mr. Sweeny noted that Captain John Hamblin who is a camera expert in the City of Syracuse's Police Department can attend the next meeting and talk to us about camera systems and how we might enhance our systems of maps. He noted that Captain Hamblin is a camera expert and Mr. Sweeny will reach out to him to see if he can attend the next UHPSA meeting.

Mr. Sweeny noted that the Syracuse Police Department is still down by about 20 to 30 officers and retirements continue to occur every day. The SPD plans to recruit a new class of officers in March, but noted that they will not be ready to patrol until September or October. In response to a question from Chief Brown, he said that until that time the East Genesee Storefront was not likely to have a full-time assigned officer as Sergeant Galvin was reassigned to the airport. He noted that Officer Bresett and the other officers assigned to Westcott Street are occasionally filling in on University Hill.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN

Mr. Sardino moved and Mr. Sweeny seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.