

# University Hill Public Safety Association

## University Hill Public Safety Association

May 2, 2018

SUNY-ESF  
408 Baker Hall

10:30 am

**Present:** President LeRoy, Messrs. Brown, Daugherty, Goldacker, Goodale, Masner, and Walsh

**Guests:** Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens – City of Syracuse  
Ruthnie Angrand, Director of Communications and Marketing – City of Syracuse

**Staff:** David A. Mankiewicz

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens outlined the process for the selection of the new police chief and has asked for input from UHPSA members.
- The UPHSA is now active. Please provide materials and photos for both the public and “members-only” section.
- There are several milling and paving projects planned for this summer which will temporarily impact traffic.
- SUNY-ESF students will be leaving by May 13, Upstate by May 20.
- There are several major construction projects underway: the Health and Wellness Center at Upstate, the National Veterans Resource Center at S.U., the Archbold renovation at S.U., as well as the three student housing projects which should be complete August 15.
- UHPSA’s next meeting is June 20. Please be prepared for a discussion of the future of HillNet and to provide input on the tabletop drill exercise planned for later this year.

### **CONTACTS:**

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Staff: David Mankiewicz, 315-475-7244  
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**I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

President LeRoy called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to waive the reading and to approve the minutes of February 21, 2018. Mr. Walsh moved and Mr. Masner seconded a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

**II. SEARCH FOR THE NEW POLICE CHIEF**

Deputy Mayor Owens noted that Mayor Walsh wanted to have a new police chief appointed by the end of the year. Ms. Owens was tasked to meet with the public to gather community input on the process. They have already met with 11 different community groups. The person who will be selected as the new chief could come from within the ranks of the current SPD or from anywhere in the United States. Starting in June and through the summer the City will interview candidates in October, the final decision will be made as to who the new chief will be. They want to make sure there is a transition period for the outgoing and incoming chief to work together.

One of the key issues that is always discussed at community meetings is the value of community policing versus data-driven policing. She noted that while many people have expressed a desire for more community policing they don't recognize the cost of it. It is generally a more expensive form of policing. At one time the department reached a high point of 550 officers where it was possible to do more community policing, but now the force has been reduced to 480-500 officers.

Mr. Walsh commented that it's important to define for people what community policing and data-driven policing is. He noted that the current SPD probably doesn't have the numbers to do community policing. Mr. Walsh was with the Syracuse Police Department and he had designed and implemented community policing in the mid-1990s. He was the first commander of community policing division of the department. However at that time there were grants available for it and in 1998 the federal government established a program to add 100,000 police officers throughout the country and paid for them for three years. Most departments took this opportunity to take those grants and through attrition were able to hold onto the officers that were in the program. Mr. Walsh also noted that there is a need for more police officers on the street, as he noted that response times are not good and it takes too long for the officers to respond. First year police officers really don't have the experience when they start and it's necessary for them to work for a year before they are really ready to act on the street.

Chief LeRoy commented that it's important for officers to be at community events. It's an opportunity for the community to interact with officers and both groups can look at each other in a different way. It is important to invest in the sergeants who are the first round supervisors. He noted that one of the challenges is that as police officers take more responsibility and move up the ranks, they often tend to have to take more night shifts and the pay incentives for that level don't match the time and difficulty of working nights.

Mr. Walsh recommended that the City to provide an incentive for officers to live in the city such as a reduced mortgage rate. He would recommend this approach over obligating officers to live in the city. It is good for officers to get away, so they do not have to do the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Daugherty noted that the incoming chief needs to have a policy to address violence. He noted that police officers actually deal with it for a very short period of time, and the medical staff in places like Upstate have to deal with it for a long period of time. They also have to deal with friends and family of the victims of gun violence and trauma.

Mr. Mankiewicz commented on the data-driven policing recommendation. He noted that the problem with data-driven policing is that key areas of the city such as University Hill area and downtown statistically never show the level of crime that the neighborhoods do. On the other hand, these areas generate the most visitors to the city and they also generate the largest amount of investment property tax and sales tax revenues to the city. He believes that the City needs to recognize the substantial investment that has been made in these areas to protect the jobs and tax base of the city.

Many of the issues in these areas tend to be quality-of-life problems rather than crime. The Downtown Committee of Syracuse and the Crouse-Marshall Business Improvement District have employed retired police officers to provide additional patrols within the city. Their primary role is prevention and communication leaving the crime role to the Syracuse Police Department. He recommended that the City, particularly with the number of retirements that are coming in the Syracuse Police Department consider creating a formal program for its own community policing needs using these officers. This would reduce the cost of policing, but provide for a well-trained and high quality security program within some of the city's key commercial and institutional districts. Mr. Daugherty agreed that some form of hybrid community policing could be important as a role to try and prevent the crime and violence which has plagued the city.

Mr. Daugherty also noted that the City needs to think about creating alternatives for people who are out on the street. He noted that when the shelters close in the morning, the people in them have no place to go, and that providing a day program to allow homeless individuals a place to spend time during the day rather than being out on the street would also increase security and reduce panhandling.

Mr. Mankiewicz also noted that the relationship between drugs and crime. There is a significant need to provide for more drug recovery programs. In the near future Crouse Hospital is going to propose an expansion for their substance abuse clinic which currently operates from an undersized building at East Genesee and Crouse. Crouse officials have expressed a concern that there will be a "NIMBY" response when they try to develop a larger and better-located facility. He asked that the City work with Crouse and support the location that will ultimately be recommended to make sure that the services required to meet the community substance abuse needs are met.

Chief LeRoy urged all the members to complete the surveys that have been distributed and to provide them to Mayor's office. He noted it was important to bring all the stakeholders together and to have the relationships that will allow the community to address the security challenges that it has before it.

### **III. UNIVERSITY HILL PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**

Mr. Mankiewicz noted that the University Hill Public Safety Association website is operational and can be found on the web at [www.uhpsa.com](http://www.uhpsa.com) or [www.uhpsa.org](http://www.uhpsa.org). He demonstrated the site to the members and asked the members to provide content to make the site both useful to the

public and to the members. The site has a members-only component which is password protected. The current password is SecurityTeamUHPSA#. In the members-only section are the minutes of the UHPSA meeting, the maps that mark the locations of security cameras, and there is a section for information to be exchanged confidentially. He recommended that the members start using those sections of the website to exchange information.

#### IV. **ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Mr. Mankiewicz provided information on two road construction projects:

##### **A. Paving and Milling of Interstate 81 at the Interchange of Harrison and Adams**

It was noted that a milling and paving project will take place sometime this summer. The work will involve four ramps: the I-81 northbound on-ramp from Almond; the I-81 Southbound off-ramp at Harrison; the Almond Street exit ramp from I-81 to Adams; and the Adams Street on-ramp to I-81 South. (Please see the map attached.) For the first three projects the work is going to be done at night likely between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. For the last one, the work will be done on a weekend day, Saturday and Sunday, as it is next to Pioneer Homes. When the ramps are going to be worked on they will close the ramps and erect detour signs to tell drivers to get off before or after the exit. NYSDOT will have to close one lane of Almond when the ramp on I-81 North is being worked on. The off-ramp may result in the closure of one lane on Monroe Street next to University Hospital. There will be a NYSDOT departmental representative on site to assist in the work.

*Ed. Note:* Since the UHPSA meeting, NYSDOT sent the following notice:

The milling and paving work at the Almond Street ramps at I-81 is expected to be scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, May 19 – Southbound ramp at Adams Street
- Monday, May 21-25 night work Southbound at Harrison Street; Northbound at Harrison Street; Northbound at Adams Street. Work on each of these ramps will be scheduled individually, not at the same time.

##### **B. Waverly, Comstock and Crouse Milling and Repaving Project**

Mr. Mankiewicz attended a coordination meeting project with the City, Syracuse University and Crouse Hospital. Unfortunately, this one is also uncertain. It is the goal of the City to do this project over the summer, but it may more likely be held over until after Labor Day. There is some concern that this could conflict with the school return. The City wants to mill and repave all of Waverly between Irving and Comstock Avenue; all of Crouse Avenue between Waverly and East Genesee Street; and Comstock Avenue from Euclid to Waverly. The City reported that they need six weeks from May 1 to get state approval and then it will take an additional four weeks to bid the project. So, under the most aggressive schedule, this takes them into mid-July before they can begin work.

The challenge is that the National Veterans Resource Center is also going under construction this summer and construction vehicles are going to reach the site through Waverly Avenue and exit onto Crouse Avenue, and as a result there is one lane of parking blocked on Crouse. Syracuse University asked the City to pave Waverly from

University to Comstock and to do the Comstock work this summer and do the other half of the project next summer. However, the City does not want to break the project up. The other challenge is that in June, The Marshall will be building its electric and water service and this will be on Crouse Avenue from Marshall Street down to Adams Street. This is likely to result in one lane being closed on Crouse Avenue and all the utility work has to be done before Crouse Avenue is repaved. There will be an update meeting in six weeks there will be more information at that time.

Tom LeRoy also noted that to facilitate the work on Archbold, there has been a temporary road built around Forestry Drive. He noted that there is going to be extensive steam work underneath the existing road and that sections of the existing buildings are being demolished now. He expects work there to be significant over the next two years but the temporary road should be left open to allow traffic to flow through that connection.

**V. GRADUATION SCHEDULE**

Chief LeRoy noted that SUNY-ESF is going to graduate on May 12 and May 13. The event will be held the SRC arena at OCC. He also noted that there is an event which takes place with Syracuse University on the 12<sup>th</sup> that goes on in the Carrier Dome. He believes Syracuse University will use a similar schedule and Upstate is going to graduate its students about one week later.

**VI. SECURITY CONCERNS/CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Daugherty noted that this summer SUNY Upstate Medical University will build the wellness center that is going to go on the parking lot at Almond and Adams. The lot has already been closed for the work. This is a \$150 million project and it will include a drive-through pharmacy retail space on the ground floor. This is the largest project that SUNY Upstate will be involved in, however it is anticipated during construction neither Almond Street nor Adams will be ever be closed during the construction.

Mr. Brown noted that in mid-June there is going to be a closure of Cedar Street for two days also to do work on that road.

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that all of the student apartment buildings including: The Marshall, Theory Syracuse, and 505 on Walnut are scheduled to be complete by August of this year. They are all engaged in trying to lease out space for students. Again, this is going to shift patterns of where students live and may require the UHPSA to think more about how to secure students that live on various sections of East Genesee Street.

Mr. LeRoy noted that at the Central New York's Awards Banquet, Deputy Chief Sardino received a commendation for his work. He noted that SUNY-ESF constantly leans on his depth of experience. At the next meeting, Mr. LeRoy would like to have a discussion on the viability of Hill Net and where we want it to go. He noted that when SUNY-ESF is conducting tests, members are not responding to it as an association. He noted that it's possible that the website will replace some of its function and will become a way to pass on information to each other.

Mr. Daugherty noted that the UHPSA has to decide if they want Chris Dunham to do another tabletop drill this year. He noted that if they wanted to get it done in the fall, it was important to communicate with Mr. Dunham and to discuss the type of scenario that might be desired.

Chief LeRoy suggested that we invite Mr. Dunham to the June meeting. Mr. Daugherty also noted that if the UHPSA wanted a different type of scenario that would be the time to provide information. Mr. Daugherty also reported that Sgt. Bill Galvin's daughter now works with Chris in the emergency planning functions at Upstate.

Mr. Mankiewicz reported that the VAMC chief Mr. Ben Robertson told him that he was going to be leaving in two weeks to join the Defense Security Agency in Livonia Michigan. He will be stepping down as Chief at the VA. He noted that Tom Martin will be taking over as Interim Chief. We wish Mr. Robertson well in his new career.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN**

Chief LeRoy noted that the next meeting is scheduled for June 20. He noted that classes will be done by then and he would like to host the meeting again at ESF. Once the students and the faculty leave for the summer there will be available parking on site.

With no further business to come before the UHPSA, Mr. Walsh moved and Mr. Daugherty seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.



# SYRACUSE POLICE CHIEF SEARCH

## CRITERIA DISCUSSION W/ GOVERNMENT LEADER

The City of Syracuse is searching for a new Chief of Police to lead the Syracuse Police Department.

The City is seeking a candidate with the necessary experience to serve our diverse community. You have a critical role to play in helping us to identify important criteria of the next Chief of Police. We are coordinating with agencies and elected officials to conduct Community Input Sessions.

Please take a moment to complete a short survey, send it onto your constituents and share with us your questions and concerns about our search for the next Chief of Police.

Action	Target completion date
<b>MARCH</b>	
Execute public engagement: <b>Community Input Sessions</b>	Underway
Identify qualified search firms	March 31
<b>APRIL</b>	
Launch police search microsite, post weekly summaries	Week of April 2
Complete public engagement on criteria	April 30
Interview search firms / collect proposals	April 15
Select search firm*	April 30
<b>MAY</b>	
Develop candidate profile, review w/stakeholders	End of May
Hold public forum, introduce search firm	Mid-May
Release final candidate profile	May 31
<b>JUNE/JULY/AUGUST</b>	
Conduct search	End of August
<b>SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER</b>	
Select finalists	Sept. 1
Conduct public engagement with finalists	Mid-October
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Announce new chief	
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
New chief starts	

\* Indicates if a search firm is deemed necessary

# Syracuse Chief of Police Search: Leadership Conversations

## COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

The City of Syracuse is searching for a new Chief of Police to lead the Syracuse Police Department.

The City is seeking a candidate with the necessary experience to serve our diverse community. You have a critical role to play in helping us to identify important criteria of the next Chief of Police. Community input will be utilized to assist search efforts when evaluating applicant's policing philosophies, experience, skills, and abilities.

Please take a moment to complete this short survey. Your responses to all of the questions are voluntary. You can email any feedback to [mlewis@syr.gov](mailto:mlewis@syr.gov).

\*What professional experience do you think is most important for the next leader of the Syracuse Police Department? Please select your three most important qualities from the list below:

- Has a record of setting high standards and holding officers accountable
- Has a record of reducing crime and making neighborhoods safer
- Has a record of reducing instances of gun violence
- Has a record and commitment to community, problem-solving and policing
- Has a record of working with citizen-led Review Boards
- Has experience working in an urban city
- Has experience working with diverse communities
- Is there any other criteria or experience that you believe is important?

What do you hope the leader will bring to the **police department**?

What is the zip code where you work?

What is the zip code where you live?

What is your ethnicity/culture do you identify as? (Optional)

What is your gender? Select all that apply. (Optional)

Female

Male

Transgender

What is your age? (Optional)

15-19

20-25

26-34

35-45

46-55

over 55

How did you **first** learn about this Community Input Session? (Please check one)

I attended a Public Meeting

City of Syracuse (Social Media or Email)

Church/Faith-Based Organization

Employer or Business

Elected Official

Neighborhood Group or Community Center

Friends/Family

syracuse.com (yes, I want to know specifically them or TV)

TV/News

This survey can be found online at [BIT.LY/SPDCHIEFSURVEY](https://bit.ly/spdchiefsurvey)