

University Hill Public Safety Association

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June 20, 2018

SUNY-ESF
141 Baker Hall

10:30 am

Present: President LeRoy, Vice President Daugherty, Messrs. Brown, Goldacker, Masner, Riley, and Sweeny

Guests: Mr. Christopher Dunham, Director of Emergency Management – SUNY Upstate Medical University
Ms. Courtenay Galvin, Emergency Management Coordinator – SUNY Upstate Medical University.
Mr. Bradley Marmon, Emergency Management Coordinator – SUNY Upstate Medical University Emergency Management
Mr. Philip Rose, Prevention Network, and Campus/Community/Business/Police Consortia

Staff: David A. Mankiewicz

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Chris Dunham offered to develop the scenario for the tabletop exercise. The tabletop will be the focus of the October meeting.
- The UHPSA heard a presentation from Mr. Philip Rose, chair of the Campus/Community/Business/Police Consortia. Its efforts are focused on reducing underage drinking on and around campus. The consortia is looking into education, legislation, and technological responses to the problem of underage drinking.
- There are several major projects now under construction that are slowing traffic on Irving and Crouse Avenue. Upstate is about to launch a new project, the Nappi Wellness Center at Almond and Adams Street.

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I. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF May 2, 2018

President LeRoy called the meeting to order and he welcomed the members and guests present. He asked for consideration of the minutes of May 2, 2018. Mr. Daugherty moved and Mr. Sweeny seconded a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. TABLETOP EXERCISE 2018 – SCENARIO/TESTING CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Dunham offered his assistance to the UHPSA to conduct a tabletop exercise. He asked the members to give input on what would be an actionable outcome from the tabletop as he wants a scenario to be realistic, plausible and beneficial. He also mentioned that a scenario might address regulatory issues relative to licensing and communications, and to get the assurance that in the event of an emergency, people can be there. Among the scenario elements suggested were: (1) construction challenges, (2) casualty issues that might involve the hospitals, and (3) escaped prisoners. The goal is to use the October meeting for tabletop. UHPSA needs to find a location on campus that would offer room where people could gather and have PowerPoint capability and website access. There might be additional pre-planning required for the tabletop exercise.

III. PRESENTATION BY THE CAMPUS/COMMUNITY/BUSINESS/POLICE CONSORTIA

Mr. Philip Rose introduced himself as the chair of the consortia which includes as members, Le Moyne, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse University, Deputy Chief Richard Shoff of the Syracuse Police Department, and business owners from both University Hill and Armory Square. The purpose of the consortia is to deal with the challenges of underage drinking. Mr. Rose works for the Prevention Network and he is the underage drinking coordinator. In the past most of the work of the consortia was focused on programs with the high schools, and now the consortia is shifting attention to the colleges. He noted that underage drinking peaks in freshman and sophomore years. The consortia takes a comprehensive look at this complex multi-faceted problem. The challenge is that the alcohol industry spends \$6 billion a year in advertising.

He noted one of the projects of the consortia is to enhance the I.D. scanning capabilities of places that sell alcohol. He noted that many of the ordinary scanners in place today are easily fooled by fake I.D.'s which are getting better and better. There is a new system that is being used by New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Liquor Authority that is being produced by a Boston-based business, ID Science. It is producing a more expensive scanner that generally costs \$4,600 per system, however it is 98% accurate and the system is updated every month.

The consortia is working with restaurants both on University Hill and in Armory Square. He noted the systems while cost \$4,600 each, the consortia is hoping to get a bulk purchasing arrangement that would bring the cost down to \$4,100. He noted that while this is expensive, the SLA has imposed fines up to \$25,000 for the inadequate testing of identification. The scanners, therefore, are relatively cheap compared to the fines that bar and restaurant owners are subject to if under-age drinkers get by them. Mr. Rose also noted that the system is smart and the scanners can network with each other so if one individual tries to use a fake identification at one establishment, it will alert the others in the area so the person is consistently turned down. In response to questions, Mr. Rose noted that the annual fee to support the scanners is \$600 per year.

Mr. Rose is looking to recruit more bar owners and managers into the project. He is working with individuals at the Carrier Dome. Byrne Dairy is also interested in the system, and Barry Weiss who runs the DWI programs for the district attorney's office is also interested in establishing it as a pilot project. Mr. Rose noted that studies indicate that the more barriers that can be created to underage drinking the more that incidents of abuse go down.

There are two other initiatives the consortia is addressing: (1) education, and (2) legislation. Mr. Rose noted that the University of Massachusetts has begun a system of party registration. While students may be allowed to host parties, they still must register them and through that process and receive a package of material that warns party organizers what they must do and must not do. UMASS has indicated that this has been a highly successful program. The reports of serious incidents around their campus have been reduced.

The consortia is also working with Syracuse Common Councilor and former SPD chief, Steve Thompson on developing an ordinance to control nuisance and unruly events. The ordinance will target people that throw parties. He expects that the ordinance will be passed by the Common Council during the summer and will start around Labor Day. The goal is to put people on notice. Mr. Rose noted he is working with Judge Rory McMahon that might bring these cases into his court. Mr. Sweeny noted there has to be a penalty involved or the SPD won't be able to enforce it. The ordinance will not target landlords if they are not present on the premises.

Mr. Rose noted that the combination of education and enforcement has been proven to be effective in cutting back these types of incidents. Mr. Mankiewicz asked the UHPSA to help University Hill Corporation evaluate the plan presented by the consortia. He noted that if the UHPSA thought that this could be effective at cutting underage drinking and the incidents that go along with it, the UHPSA might propose at a future meeting that University Hill Corporation support the proposed ordinance as well as to suggest that the corporation offer a subsidy to Hill businesses that agree to buy the scanning systems. Mr. Mankiewicz will contact Mr. Rose to see if it's possible to get a demonstration of the scanners. Mr. Mankiewicz also noted that he would invite Mr. Rose to meetings of the Crouse-Marshall Business Improvement District and the East Genesee Regent Association to talk to more of our owners and restaurants regarding the program.

IV. SECURITY CONCERNS/CONSTRUCTION

President LeRoy noted that there is significant amount of construction around the SUNY-ESF campus which includes the construction of a major retention basin, upgrades to the entrance, and also ends at the reconstruction by S.U. of the Arch. The Arch construction began this summer and is expected to last for two years to conclude by the fall of 2020. He noted that it is still possible to drive up Forestry Drive but the connection to Comstock, Sims and Euclid will be closed until the students come back in the third week of August.

Mr. Daugherty reported that the preliminary work for the Nappi Wellness Center is now underway. This project is located at the intersection of Almond and Adams Street, across Adams Street from the Cancer Center at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He noted that full construction will start in about four months.

Mr. Brown reported that Cedar Street will be closed for repaving sometime this summer. He will send out an update to the members when it is scheduled.

Mr. Daugherty noted that Upstate had moved a large number of its information technology people into The Galleries. There has been some concerns because the police substation downtown moved from The Galleries to the Harrison Center. He asked that we communicate with the downtown SPD regarding issues that they have had particularly when employees are leaving at night. There has been a recent enhancement to the Downtown Committee staffing and they are now having two-man patrol downtown between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Mr. Mankiewicz will transmit the information.

Mr. Sweeny noted that the Westcott Street storefront is closing. This is being done because the landlord wanted to get the space returned because they want to lease it. As a result, Officer Chris Bresett is being moved from the Westcott Street storefront and will now be working from the East Genesee Street storefront which has not been staffed for about the last six months. Officer Bresett will continue to patrol both Westcott Street and East Genesee Street, and the areas in the eastside.

V. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURN

President LeRoy has asked Mike Walsh to do a presentation on Centro's capacity and the camera systems on their busses. He will ask him to present that the next meeting. UHPSA will plan to meet on August 8 and will do that at SUNY-ESF.

With no further business to come before the meeting, it adjourned at 11:30 a.m.