UFPD Campus Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 18, 2012  Time: 12:04 PM to 1:09 PM (65 minutes)

Facilitated by: Chief Linda J. Stump, Assistant Vice President of Public and Environmental Safety
University of Florida Police Department
UFPD Campus Advisory Committee Member

Location: University of Florida Police Department,
UFPD Community Services Classroom

Members Present: Linda J. Stump
Cheri Brodeur
Harold Jackson
Scott Nygren
Severin Walstad
Christina Bonarrigo

Other Attendees: Nathan Crabbe
Capt. Bart Knowles
Lt. Scott Summers
Janine Sikes
Curtis Reynolds
Major Brad Barber
Todd Morrone
Bill Properzio
Capt. Eric Rice
Lt. Mitch Welsh
Deputy Chief Tony Dunn
Deputy Chief Darren Baxley
Kelly Jackson

Old Business
Chief Linda Stump began the meeting at 12:04 PM. She asked the committee members present, if they had reviewed the minutes that was emailed to them and if they were prepared to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Nygren submitted some minor changes that are included in the final minutes printed for approval. There were no objections and the minutes were approved as printed by all members present.

New Business
Chief Stump welcomed all attendees and introduced agenda topics and presenters. Meeting agenda was distributed to all attendees (attached).

U.S. College Bomb Threats
Deputy Chief Darren Baxley and Chief Linda Stump introduced the topic of U.S. College Bomb Threats. Deputy Chief Baxley described briefly the timeline of the first bomb threat on September 14, 2012 at the University of Texas at Austin. The bomb threat was received at
8:35am from a male with a middle-eastern accent claiming to have placed bombs all over campus. He said he was with Al Qaeda and that the bombs would go off in 90 minutes. Their President was notified and it was decided to evacuate all of the buildings out of an abundance of caution. As the day continued, other bomb threats were received by North Dakota State University and Louisiana State University. Deputy Chief Baxley explained that bomb threats are very dangerous and absorb a lot of time and resources. Many of the bomb threats are fake and this incident forced universities and university police departments to question how best to respond to these calls and how to deal with evacuations. When the information began to be released that major universities were evacuating the entire campus, it forced UF administrators and the UF Police Department to evaluate the current protocol, and if necessary create discussions and table top to determine if a current threat is active for UF and if evacuation is appropriate. Deputy Chief Baxley confirmed that from all intelligence available, there were no current active threats against the University of Florida main campus or other satellite campus locations.

Chief Stump mentioned that UFPD has FBI clearance to have open and normal communications regarding such topics. During the unfolding of the events on September 14th, she stated that she and the FBI began talking at different levels about protocols and departments to reach out to in the event a threat was received. She continued by assuring the committee that brainstorming had begun immediately as an attempt to be as prepared and informed as possible.

Deputy Chief Baxley stated that UFPD has pre-identified major departments, coordinators, and staff members that would receive potential threats. LSU never contemplated this ahead of time, thus forcing them to make a decision about evacuation in a short period of time and they felt it best to evacuate the campus. Chief Stump stated that UFPD asks halls to train their staff and tenants on identifying out of place objects or suspicious items that are in their everyday environments.

Severn Walstad asked how UPD would evacuate a building. “Would you pull an alarm to get everyone out as quick as possible?” Deputy Chief Baxley responded by saying that not all of the time that a more organized method is preferred but that it is definitely a situational type of decision in most cases. Also, the method is dependent on the type of building(s) involved, circumstances involved, and type of threat. The Jeanne Clery Act has forced geared universities and colleges to the “better safe than sorry” approach resulting in a lot more alerts being sent out. Dr. Scott Nygren asked if the Clery Act or Theory could be explained further. Deputy Chief Baxley continued by saying the Clery Act, also known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act was enacted as a result of a student dying on campus by someone who should be been identified as a person to be warned about. The student’s parents advocated that it is the responsibility of the university to have an early warning system in place to alert students and crime statistics available to parents. We are getting better at this as time goes on.

Dr. Nygren said he had two things to mention. The first was that he was quite impressed by the quick and frequency of the alert notifications during the incidents at Sorority Row last fall, and secondly, he was concerned about over notifications and people ignoring the alerts. Deputy Chief Baxley said that his concern was valid and has been mentioned in discussions and that everyone involved is trying very hard to not overwhelm the university community with constant
texts, emails and phone message alerts. Dr. Cheri Brodeur stated that these were all positive things and that it seems that all staff and departments involved were all in agreement and working well together. Mr. Walstad mentioned that people he knows who are no longer affiliated with the University of Florida still get alerts. He asked how up to date is the notification system and is there a way to discontinue getting the alerts? Deputy Chief Baxley said that the system is updated daily, but if someone is getting the alerts and would like to stop, they can unsubscribe. Mr. Walstad also asked if alerts were sent to visitors to campus for conferences, camps, etc. Chief Stump replied that there is no efficient way to know when a visitor is on or off campus, but that the protocol calls for Dave Kratzer to coordinate with involved departments and staff and notifications are distributed in that way.

First Lady Michelle Obama’s visit to UF - September 17, 2012
Captain Bart Knowles introduced himself and explained the planning that went into preparing for First Lady Obama’s visit. Approximately one week prior to her visit, the U.S. Secret Service contacted the University Police Department with the date of her arrival. The Secret Service did not have her itinerary all planned out for some reason, which meant UPD had very sketchy information and had very little time to make contact with other departments on campus, as well as outside agencies that would be involved in the motorcade and other tasks surrounding this VIP visiting the campus. Captain Knowles gave a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the resources involved, timeline of planning/preparation and some concerns that arose from the event. The main concern was that on the day of her visit, the weather was very hot and humid (approx. 120° outside in the direct sun) and the crowd was very large. The combination of the two presented dehydration issues and a very long wait to get inside the O’Connell Center; the crowd had started lining up very early. Captain Knowles advised that there were definitely things that could be done better in the future, but that the event went remarkably well, despite the lack of sufficient time to plan and prepare for her arrival. He also stated that he planned on having a post-event meeting with the O’Connell administrative staff and others involved to discuss all concerns and as well as positive aspects of the event as experienced by all departments involved in order to make recommendations for future VIP security. Chief Stump stated that something she was concerned about was that when 2 attendees needed to be relocated, the O’Connell Center staff could not be found in a timely manner to assist. Dr. Cheri Brodeur said she witnessed some Senior-aged VIP’s near her that were standing and was concerned about the length of time they had to stand and their physical well-being due to the length of time the audience had to wait for Mrs. Obama. Captain Knowles acknowledged that he was aware of that situation and they were presented with options, but that they didn’t want to move to another area.

Dr. Brodeur also mentioned that she walked to an area of the facility that should have had some Secret Service agents, but they weren’t there forcing UFPD officers to man that area. She was concerned about a possible breach of security when the areas are left unmanned even for a short period of time. Chief Stump explained that the Secret Service agents concentrate heavily on “target” (Mrs. Obama) and they may have had to change their position if something caused them concern somewhere else in the facility. Dr. Nygren expressed concern about such high profile or controversial guests/speakers on campus and not having the resources available to provide a safe and secure venue; what would we do? Chief Stump responded with Background Checks and if necessary the guest/speaker or visit or would be turned away if not enough resources, as with Dr. Kevorkian. We did not have the resources at the time to dedicate to his visit and administrators decided that the risk was too high; therefore turning him away. Dr.
Brodeur said she wanted Chief Stump and all of the officers to know that they all did a great job on this event despite all of the concerns.

**New Child Abuse Law – House Bill 1355**

Lieutenant Mitchal Welsh gave a brief summary about the Bill and presented via PowerPoint. He mentioned that web reporting of an incident is not currently available, but they should have something in the works. Chief Stump asked if the Faculty Chair was one of those individuals that were required to take the mandatory training to which Dr. Brodeur responded that she didn’t think so. Chief Stump explained that simply put – “if you hear it, suspect it, know it, then report it”. Lt. Welsh and Chief Stump both suggested that if someone wasn’t sure what they heard, suspected or witnessed, then to call an administrator at the police department to discuss. Dr. Nygren stated that there is so much at stake in a case like Penn State, that is was nice to know who and how to call for help or more information.

**GPD/UF Student Homicide Investigation – September 2012**

UF Lieutenant Scott Summers gave a brief history and summary of the events of the case. This case involved both the city Gainesville Police Department and the University of Florida, in addition to hundreds of volunteers every day involved in the search. The resources involved in coordinating not only law enforcement personnel but also volunteers who stayed for the entire time the search was ongoing. Neither department had experienced that for such a long period of time; normally volunteers are there for a week or maybe two, but each week brought new and fresh volunteers who were not giving up the search. On October 12th a body was discovered by hunters and confirmed to be that of the missing student. Chief Stump mentioned that one of the UFPD officers caught some critical information from the now suspect that caused him to keep the suspect in place and allowed things to start falling into place. Dr. Nygren stated that he thought this was an exemplary situation where. 1) law enforcement did an incredible job, 2) coordinating and managing all of the people involved (law enforcement, civilians, students, family, friends of victim); and 3) the student’s family involvement from the beginning. He said if one thing came out of this situation was that all students should know how to help each other in situations like this (how to respond, what to look for, where to respond to, etc.). All students, staff and faculty should know this. He suggested getting with T.J. Villamil (Student Body President) to coordinate. Chief Stump agreed with his suggestion. Mr. Walstad asked how a situation is handled when the Gainesville Police Department needs to get a student out of class or out of a residence area. Chief Stump advised that it is situational, but the goal is to be the least disruptive to class or residential areas as possible. Other agencies contact us directly with their needs and we typically escort them to where they need to go to talk with or pick up a student. If the student lives on campus then the RA is involved so that it is a joint effort. Every once in a while another agency may try to contact a student on their own, but there isn’t usually a problem.

**AED (Automated External Defibrillators) Update**

Mr. Tom Morrone and Dr. William Properzio were present from the Environmental Health and Safety office located at the University of Florida. Mr. Morrone passed out a map with AED equipped buildings indicated. All regulations and maintenance information would be through Dr. Phillip Barkley (UF Student Health Care Center) and Environmental Health and Safety. The goal is to have the locations added to the main campus map. Dr. Properzio advised that as of now, there are 72 AED’s on campus and twenty are being added soon. Dr. Nygren asked to have the meaning of AED to be defined for the purpose of the minutes and audience. Mr. Morrone
responded with “Automatic External Defibrillators”. Chief Stump commented that “we as administrators should ask for donations towards this effort. The more we have in place the more lives can be saved.”

Dr. Brodeur asked what was going on in Sorority Row the other night. Chief Stump said she wasn’t aware of anything but she would look into it and email her.

Chief Stump introduced Mr. Curtis Reynolds, Vice President for Business Affairs to the committee and attendees and asked if he had anything to discuss. Mr. Reynolds indicated that he did not. Chief Stump thanked everyone for attending and asked if any additional information needed to be discussed. All of the members present indicated that they did not have anything further and the meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.

Submitted by: Kelly Jackson, Office Assistant to the Chief, UFPD

Approved on September 15, 2014 by:

Linda J. Stump
Scott Nygren
Harold D. Jackson
Cheri Brodeur
Cathy Martyniak
Severin Walstad
Christina Bonarrigo
T.J. Villamil