UFPD Campus Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2014 Time: 11:30 AM to 12:36 PM (66 minutes)

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

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

Members Present: Linda J. Stump
Cheri Brodeur
Harold Jackson
Pradeep Kumar
Cory Yeffet
Keenen Vernon

Other Attendees: Deputy Chief Darren Baxley
Deputy Chief Tony Dunn
Lieutenant Greg Streukens
Captain Jeff Holcomb
Major Brad Barber
Amy Hass
Janine Sikes
Kevin Clarke
Kenneth Allen
Hal Grieb
Dr. Robert E. Thomas
Kelly Jackson

Old Business
Chief Linda Stump began the meeting at 11:30 AM and passed out boxed lunches. She asked the committee members present to review the minutes from October 18, 2012 and September 10, 2013 meetings and to please initial for approval. New committee members were welcomed and asked if they had recommendations on vacant positions to please submit them to her or Mr. Curtis Reynolds for consideration. Committee members were given a Member Listing for their information.

New Business
Chief Stump welcomed all attendees and introduced agenda topics. Meeting agenda was distributed to all attendees. She asked everyone attending to introduce themselves and their affiliation/department.
Batteries on Campus
Chief Stump distributed a document that listed the three batteries that occurred on campus and one adjacent to campus (City of Gainesville jurisdiction). The document is attached. She mentioned that the third incident (on 9/5/14) has since been confirmed as unfounded. She asked the committee and audience if anyone had any questions about the information before continuing and no questions were presented. She continued by saying that she had several members of the police department that would very briefly summarize what they have been doing or implementing as a result of the batteries.

Deputy Chief Darren Baxley then summarized the document previously distributed and again stressed that the 3rd incident was unfounded. He explained that he knew that many people, students, parents and UF employees questioned how things were being handled and what was being done to apprehend the suspect in these cases. He explained that many people compare real life law enforcement to that of TV shows or movies. He explained that the time involved to process everything from the crime scene, victim statements, and witness statements, physical evidence takes far more time than people know and that law enforcement’s job is to take all of the information received and look at the validity of it all over the course of several days. In several of these incidents the victim was intoxicated; therefore the information received days later could be different or include more details than in previous interviews. This can cause changes in various areas of the investigation. This does not mean that we aren’t doing anything or that all resources aren’t being utilized. He indicated that due to the increase in police presence on and around campus, more people are being stopped and questioned and some even asked to give DNA samples and that everyone is being very cooperative. He reassured the committee and audience that many things are being done behind the scenes to apprehend the suspect, even though they might not be recognized. Many overt and covert operations are in place. Dr. Cheri Brodeur agreed and mentioned that she noticed this on Saturday evening as she rode around with Deputy Chief Baxley during the game. She wouldn’t have known it if he hadn’t pointed it out. She felt that the police were indeed doing a lot and that the attacks were being taken very seriously by the University Police Department.

Deputy Chief Baxley also expressed the increase in services coordinated by the University Police Department and the changes that have been put in place. He mentioned the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP) extended hours of operation and additional vans to the fleet with additional drivers, and Walk Safe program and Lighting Surveys/Evaluations.

Major Brad Barber, Public Information Officer/Media Relations then discussed what he has been doing with media requests and interviews. He has done 86 interviews thus far, spoken to many parents, students, journalists, etc. since the incidents occurred. He has issued press releases about the incidents and encouraged students to use SNAP and other personal safety tips and advice. Ms. Janine Sikes of the University Relations Office then summarized her activity, as well, stating that 4 mass emails went out to all faculty, staff and students and parents. They also notified the University of Kentucky administrators and another notifications was sent to their fans regarding the incidents and what they could do to be safe while visiting our campus. Her department has been engaging in communication via all Social Media (i.e., Twitter, Facebook, etc.) and posters have been made and placed on the city buses that students and employees use every day, posters were placed all around campus and a Hotline was established.
Chief Stump asked the two students on the committee if they thought everything was being done that could or was anything being overlooked. Keenen Vernon, IRHA President said that the resident hall staff is also trying to stress personal safety and not walking alone. He said that the IRHA council is stressing that people be aware of their nighttime activities and if necessary avoid them for now, but not to change their schedules or their routines. Just be aware and alert. He expressed that although students were afraid and concerned that the suspect has not been caught, the students feel that UPD is doing a good job. Cory Yeffet, Student Government President then spoke about student concerns that if the suspect is never caught or takes some time to catch what do they do? How do they move on? He gave an example of will Safe Walk continue during exam week? How long will some of the services be able to sustain if the suspect is not caught? Chief Stump agreed and said that a lot of discussion is being done about the sustainability of services and manpower. Chief Stump held up a map of the “hot spots” on campus meaning the level of activity on campus after dark each night, which has prompted much discussions about campus and those heavily populated areas at night. She explained that many discussions are about short term and long term goals and what changes might evolve from all of this. Topics of discussion have been about access to campus and certain buildings on campus, bus services for students (city buses compared to university/campus sponsored buses) and SNAP. She expressed that SNAP was created decades ago and is inadequate on today’s campus. One or Two passenger vans (seating 15) cannot safely and efficiently handle calls for service on this campus and this needs to be seriously looked at by multiple departments. She mentioned that she advocates for cameras on campus. Mr. Yeffet asked why there aren’t any, and she explained that no one is taking ownership of that project due to the expense of equipment, monitoring and maintenance. But that UF is towards the bottom when ranked with other SEC schools in this area and she would like to see that changed. Dr. Brodeur stated that when she was riding with Deputy Chief Baxley on Saturday night, she noticed that not many students were on the buses, in fact many of them were empty or had only one or two passengers and she asked if a survey could be done to ask “Why”? Chief Stump said that the feedback she has been given is that the students don’t feel safe on city buses and that the schedules aren’t conducive to their schedules. Having to wait on a scary bus for 20 minutes verses walking alone and getting home in 15 minutes. Students are making choices based on two inadequate options. Mr. Yeffet agreed and said that transportation is inefficient and has been for some time and needs to be addressed, but adding more SNAP vans while is helpful in the short term, but not for the long term. Chief Stump agreed and said SNAP was not the answer.

Captain Holcomb then just mentioned Safe Walk which was very successful and SNAP, which was already discussed in detail.

Kenneth Allen and Hal Grieb, Emergency Management/Mass Communications, discussed the Combined Communications Center that was opened after the fourth incident (Sunday, September 7, 2014) for Emergency Management personnel to meet and share information and ideas about the cases and where to go next. Communication overall between all involved was good, they did identify some gaps in resources and working on getting those closed. All of the tools and resources they implemented seem to have worked well. The biggest communication gap seemed to be between the Gainesville Police Department and the University Police Department on the first incident due to the location and its close proximity to campus. Chief Stump explained that the campus police took the call initially due to the victim being on campus, but after interviewing her further, the incident occurred off campus and thus the case was
turned over to the City of Gainesville Police Department, as that is within their jurisdiction. But UPD and GPD have worked and continue working together on this matter.

Mr. Vernon asked if bad lighting played a part in any of the incidents and Deputy Chief Baxley stated that at the incident near McCarty, it was dark and the vegetation was overgrown. The area was dark because an electrical grid was knocked out (unknowingly and undetected) due to some construction work done in the area; therefore, the lights in that area were not on. The incident on N.W. 2nd Avenue (GPD case) was also dark. Chief Stump said that since the incident the Physical Plant Division has trimmed the trees near the McCarty buildings. Captain Holcomb brought up that maintenance in those areas and campus wide tends to be an issue due to the natural habitat and university’s sustainability campaign. Chief Stump mentioned that the university has massive amounts of lighting, and maybe the lights should be turned on in certain areas and during certain times, instead of off to save money; therefore, more lights are not necessarily the answer, but using and turning on the ones that already exist or making them brighter and staying on longer.

Deputy Chief Baxley stressed the importance of all of this being a “Shared Responsibility”; that behaviors, decisions and choices have to be more safety oriented, and that message has always been taught and stressed by the University Police Department, and that hasn’t changed. But students, parents, and employees hear that message but it doesn’t impact them until something like this happens. Dr. Brodeur mentioned that she noticed several areas near campus, that are city property do look unsafe and need lighting and can they be notified to try to add lighting in those areas close to campus. Mr. Yeffet asked if there was a place or phone number to call to report an unsafe or dark area. Chief Stump said that she wasn’t sure if there was a phone number set up for students to call, but she would find out. Chief Stump acknowledged that some attendees needed to leave for another meeting with the Dean of Students Office and asked if anyone had any additional questions, concerns, comments. Mr. Pradeep Kumar expressed the importance of addressing the Parents and assuring them that their children are safe and what safety precautions they can speak with their children about while at the university. He asked if letters or press releases have been addressed to Parents and are they getting emails, texts, etc. like the students? The students are afraid and they need to be empowered somehow for safety long term, to “take back the night”. Chief Stump agreed and emphasized that the students don’t need to be too afraid to enjoy the university, but they do need to “take back the night” so to speak. Chief re-emphasized that manpower is a concern long term and approaching the Sustainability Phase.

Upcoming Training Opportunity

The next agenda item to discuss was the upcoming UFPD “Racial Diversity Training” and invited the committee members and audience members to attend if they could. A sign-up sheet was available but also told they could email Chief Stump or Lieutenant Streukens. She introduced Lt. Streukens as the Training Commander and he discussed the State of Florida requirement of “Racial Diversity” training every four years and UFPD does it annually. He noted that all sworn personnel are required to attend one session of the four that are scheduled on September 30, 2014 from 1pm-5pm or 6pm-10pm and October 1, 2014 from 1pm-5pm or 6pm-10pm. Chief Stump also noted that a representative from the local NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers) has agreed to attend each training session. Chief Stump introduced an invited guest, Dr. Robert Thomas from the Warrington College of Business.
Dr. Thomas opened saying he was there on behalf of the Black Faculty Members group and they have been meeting for a while and their main topic of discussion was that the relationship needs to improve between UPD and the black faculty, staff and students. He had an unfortunate incident with UPD and he felt that things could have been handled differently and would like to facilitate more discussion and possibly trainings to create a more positive relationship. An unidentified associate of Dr. Thomas’ asked if the Black Faculty group will have input in the “Racial Diversity” trainings and can they implement any changes in the training material. Chief Stump said no, not in this type of training as it is geared specifically to Law Enforcement and an outside group was hired to present the training. But, input is always welcome and encouraged and any other discussions or meetings can be scheduled to facilitate that type of dialogue. Dr. Thomas stated that their goal was to improve communication and that the group wants to be pro-active with training the UF Police Department is receiving. Chief Stump agreed.

**Students for Concealed Carry - student group on campus**
In closing, Chief Stump mentioned that she was recently contact by a student organization called “Students for Concealed Carry” and they are wanting to start up again on campus and that the UFPD will help them as much as possible, and they may be contacting the committee members. She mentioned she just wanted to inform the committee and if they had any opinions about them to please let her know.

Chief asked if anyone had anything else to add, no responses. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 PM.

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

Attachment: UFPD Assault/Battery Incidents - Analytical Work-Up dated September 8, 2014

**Approved on October 2, 2014 by:**
- Linda J. Stump
- Pradeep Kumar via email
- Marc Heft absent
- Cheri Brodeur via email
- Harold Jackson via email
- Cory Yeffet via email
- Keenen Vernon via email
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency / Incident Number:</th>
<th>GPD 02-14-017067</th>
<th>GPD #02-14-17102 (UFPD #14-1667 / 29 Assault/Battery)</th>
<th>UFPD #14-1706 / 29 Assault/Battery</th>
<th>UFPD #14-1730 / 29 Assault/Battery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date / Time:</td>
<td>08/30/2014 21:20 – 21:38</td>
<td>08/31/2014</td>
<td>09/05/2014 03:04</td>
<td>09/07/2014 20:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Incident:</td>
<td>1824 N.W. 2nd Avenue</td>
<td>500 S.W. 13 Street at Inner Road</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Sidewalk between McCarty Hall B and C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim Information:</td>
<td>Victim W/F / Age 21</td>
<td>Victim W/F / Age 20</td>
<td>Victim W/F / Age 21</td>
<td>Victim W/F / Age 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspect Description:</td>
<td>W/M 6’0”to 6’5”, heavy build</td>
<td>W/M, late 20s to early 30s, average build, 6’4”- 6’5” tall, weighing 250-260 lbs.</td>
<td>W/M, 24 to under 30 years 6’2” 240 plus pounds</td>
<td>W/M 6’0, slender build, 200 lbs., mid 20’s,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Close cut brown hair, a close cut beard</td>
<td>Possibly short, blonde hair under a hat, blonde unshaven facial hair on his face</td>
<td>Dark colored or black “scuff” unshaven facial hair</td>
<td>Dark hair, not much facial hair,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspect Clothing Description:</td>
<td>Blue gator shirt</td>
<td>Orange shirt, blue shorts, blue and white baseball hat, gray converse sneakers</td>
<td>Orange button down shirt and blue shorts, might have worn dark color shoes</td>
<td>Orange t-shirt, Gators quote/phrase / black gym shorts, dark tennis shoes, dark colored ball cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident:</td>
<td>Witness interrupted attack when screams were heard / suspect fled north through the apartment complex and then eastbound on NW 3rd Ave.</td>
<td>Victim walking and talking on a cell phone / grabbed from behind and thrown into bushes / witnesses heard female scream and interrupted the attack / suspect fled on foot west bound from Inner Road</td>
<td>Walking from midtown area / suspect punched in face / suspect fled east down the sidewalk towards Reitz Union</td>
<td>Victim leaving Marston Science Library / walking on sidewalk between McCarty Hall B and C / grabbed from behind by the hair to ground / suspect kicked in the groin / suspect ran toward / Reitz Union on the sidewalk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

08/31/2014 – 09/07/2014