

Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee (IPSAC)

Meeting Notes: March 24, 2025

Agenda

- Discuss roll out and deployment of Peace Officers

1. Announcement Regarding Peace Officers

- Training has been completed and officers will be deployed
- Informed by previous months' conversations
- To be referred to as Special Patrol officers

2. Q & A

- Will they be marked by a specific uniform or badge?
 - Officers that complete the training and are designated will have a patch on their arm. They will also have a special patrol badge with a number that identifies them.
- What will deployment look like? In groups, deployed separately, or deployed with Public Safety?
 - There will be 36 total Special Patrol officers and they will be deployed over three separate shifts.
 - This will be an add-on to normal Public Safety operations. They will be on foot or in a car and we are looking at using bicycles.
- Are there clear updated guidelines about when Special Patrol officers will be called versus Public Safety Officers and NYPD?
 - Public Safety will be dispatched as normal.
 - Special Patrol will be a step to handle situations on campus without calling the NYPD.
- What equipment will Special Patrol carry?
 - They will have the same standard equipment as regular Public Safety and will be unarmed. They will have a summons book.
- Where would people be taken if they were to be arrested by these officers?
 - The Public Safety offices in Manhattanville have space for processing as needed; they would be taken to a local NYPD precinct.
- What relationship will the Special Patrol officer have with the NYPD? Will it be any different than current PS policy?
 - They will not have a different relationship with the NYPD (a designation to act as Special Patrol). They are employees of Columbia or our contractors.

- Would Special Patrol reports be part of the existing Public Safety reports?
 - Yes. The same rules around Clery apply.
 - All activity will be recorded and logged, as per normal policy. Same analysis and notices would go out to public if needed
- Will Special Patrol officers have body cameras?
 - We are considering. It is considered a best practice, but have some issues to work through.
 - IPSAC members expressed support for using body cameras.
- Why are there no body cameras at this initial stage? What issues have to be worked through in order to have body cameras?
 - Public Safety has a number of rules about the use of cameras and wants to make sure body cameras conform to all of those rules before being deployed.
- Could there be a public communication about these details?
 - Yes, currently developing communications that will be posted to the Public Safety website.
- Could the Special Patrol officers have more than just the patch and badge to identify them? Some students have issues with the difficulty of distinguishing between Public Safety and Allied security.
 - Public Safety officers currently have square badges. Special Patrol officers will have an oval shaped badge and a patch.
 - Public Safety can look into uniform details and this point.
- Being clear about training, including Fair and Impartial training.
 - Staff have gone through de-escalation training and more trainings are scheduled.
- What are the thresholds that would warrant particular actions and approaches taken by these officers?
 - Events determine response.
 - Goal is to reduce reliance of the NYPD on campus.
- Are there separate protocols set up for students versus faculty?
 - No.
- What is the typical contract for an officer and will we have access to written protocol for when and how Columbia will use this?
 - There is no contract. They are Columbia police and full-time employees.

- Or there are contract employees like Allied, but Special Patrol officers would be full-time employees.
 - There is a protocol for arrests when needed but the focus will be on de-escalation before making any arrests.
- Will these officers also be at Manhattanville and the Medical Center?
 - They will start at Morningside, but they will be deployed uptown as needed.
- If there are concerns about Special Patrol officer behavior, how can that be reported?
 - The same process as with other Public Safety officers. Options include:
 - The form on the Public Safety website, which can be completed anonymously.
 - Call the office.
 - Walk into Public Safety office.
 - Also external to Public Safety options such as the University Compliance Hotline.
- Would these officers be deployed to Barnard?
 - No. Limited to CU campus, buildings, and property.
- Would they need administrative approval to make arrests?
 - Not in situations that would not allow for it.
 - Public Safety employees will consult with leadership, as per prior policy.
- Will grounds for arrests include breaking Columbia rules?
 - No, an arrest has to be in line with NY state or other law – has to be a violation of a law.
- Is it the expectation that the Special Patrol officers will stay on indefinitely or is this a temporary measure? If temporary, what is the anticipated time frame of this intervention?
 - The Special Patrol officers are an enhancement for Public Safety and not a temporary measure.
- Sharing information would be helpful. Something like the Barnard bomb threat could be communicated to students. CU students were arrested on the Barnard campus, and it might be helpful for students to be alerted by CU rather than social media getting the information out first.
 - Discussion of Clery and other obligations.
- What is the plan for ICE presence on campus?

- The protocol remains the same. There are FAQs which can be added to over time.

3. **Next Steps**

- Next meeting: April meeting is 4/2 at 1:30 pm.