

## Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Full Committee Meeting Notes

April 11, 2025

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- No feedback from the IPSAC portal since the last meeting, but feedback was received in meetings between students and University leadership. This feedback included concerns around deployment of special patrol officers, over-policing on campus, NYPD presence on campus, lack of response to complaints to Public Safety, EMOT alerts, and interactions with private contract guards.

- **Vice President for Public Safety Report**

- University website and Public Safety website contains information
- Public Safety is not working in partnership with ICE
- ICE does not contact us to share when they will come on campus, what they will wear, or what their tactics will be. Public Safety does not dictate any of their actions on campus.
- There is a guide for officers/desk attendants in dorms regarding interactions with ICE in non-public areas of the University.
  - The process includes: Asking for credentials, asking agents to wait to enter until Public Safety is contacted (who coordinates with General Counsel to coordinate a response), and not accepting service of any warrants or subpoenas (as they are not authorized to do so). A script is provided to officers and desk attendants.

- **Discussion**

- Question from committee member: Concerned about Section 13-05 of NYC rule, under conduct of special patrolman there is a line: “a special patrolman is subject to the orders and regulations of the police commissioner and shall cooperate in the performance of duties with the members of the police department.” In University communications the administration has expressed that they want to reduce reliance on NYPD. It is concerning that they report back to the NYPD Commissioner. Real concern about cooperation with the NYPD. What training will be put in place for these officers? Are they using surveillance tactics? Will they be asked by the police commissioner to share information as they are a part of our community now?
  - Response: Special Patrol Officers are designated by the NYPD, have responsibilities as sworn officers in NYS/NYC. They cannot operate

outside of the codes/rules/procedures of the city and state (i.e., search and seizure, city codes). However, they are employees of Columbia who report to Columbia. The private/contract security officers report to their contractor, but we have control over what they do. Special Patrol Officers do not talk to the NYPD around decision making. They are under Columbia control, and must meet Public Safety requirements. Employment consequences from Columbia. No orders are coming from NYPD and there is no information sharing/no line of communication. Incident reports are not shared with NYPD unless there is a lawful subpoena.

- Special patrol is under our management. They are the same as our regular Public Safety officers, up and until they have to exercise other authority (i.e., issuing a summons/arrest). They are here to serve the community and de-escalate situations.
- They are not there as surveillance for NYPD or to take orders from NYPD. If we issue a citation, because it's through their database, NYPD would have access. Special Patrol Officers act under the authority of Public Safety leadership
- Question from committee member: There is a feedback form on the Public Safety website for complaints/compliments. What happens when something goes there? What is the protocol for action?
  - Response: Public Safety answers every complaint and compliment and initiates an internal investigation for every incident that's reported. Action is taken based on the findings (i.e., anything from a written reprimand to a termination).
  - All submissions are taken seriously. Community should not be afraid to initiate a complaint.
  - Complaints can be submitted anonymously.
  - It is an internal review process unless it turns into something larger.
  - "Know your rights and responsibilities" on the Public Safety website lists places to go to lodge complaints.
- Question from committee: Why was the information around Special Patrol Officers not shared with our committee ahead of time? Communication is a problem as well as a significant mistrust of the administration. We were told about peace officers, based on our suggestions, but what we got is something else. Why didn't this committee have the opportunity to discuss the special patrol officer plan?

- Response: Peace Officers are at the state level, and special patrolmen are the types of Peace Officer designated in NYC by the Commissioner.
  - Reuters article was not accurate on a lot of things. The issue is in the specific authorizing language that was used - folks interpreted the language in a different way.
- Question from a committee member: Can we see the training materials used for these special patrol officers? Even a PDF to review in this committee would be helpful.
  - Response: We will put as much information as possible online for the community. Have to figure out what to put up and how fast we can post it. Won't post all operating details online for public consumption.
- Body Cameras
  - Deputy Vice President Brian McPherson is working on this project
  - Beneficial to Public Safety and to the community as it curbs behavior and documents incidents as they happen.
  - Public Safety needs to make sure that all rules, processes, and procedures are in place around use and data before implementation
  - Looking at a cloud based storage system which cannot be tampered with by officers
  - Will bring this back to IPSAC to discuss policies and procedures further
  - No timeline yet but Vice President Lewis will follow up