

Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

January 20, 2023

11AM-12:30 PM (Zoom and in person)

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction new Committee Members and report out from Tamesha Steward
- Aims for Our Time
- VP of Public Safety Report - Gerald Lewis
- Forthcoming Public Safety Reports: Process and Next Steps for PS and IPS AC - Dennis Mitchell
- Discussion and Questions
- Close

Welcome:

- Co-Chair Melissa Begg opened the meeting.

Aims for Our Time:

Introduction new Committee Members

- Lijia Zheng and Tammie Steward
- Reminder of conversation guidelines
- Reminders about protocols in the event that Press outreach directly to Committee members. Please inform Dennis, Melissa and/or Josef for visibility and planning on any recommended response.

Wellness Checks Update:

- Policies regarding incidents (mental health crises) – need to evaluate, refine policies and evaluate training
- Aim to respond with sensitivity to those in the Columbia community. Aim to treat students/faculty/staff differently because we have the time to triage within our own community
- Recommendations coming out of the two reports that are forthcoming will help immensely to create a better university community
- Updating practices related to: students in crisis, de-escalation strategies, opportunities to improve on wellness checks, collaboration between Public Safety and other units
- Goal is for Public Safety to serve as a back-up while allowing mental health professionals handle actual issues. Public Safety to ensure that everyone is safe and that the environment is safe while they do that work.

New recurring space during committee meetings for Gerald to share what is top of mind for him/his office/his unit and allow committee to share feedback

Gerald Lewis:

- 1) Community engagement
 - a. Current crime prevention unit – would like to formally change name to “Community Engagement Unit” *(asked for buy in from the committee on the name change, all agreed)*
 - i. Will the new name encompass any other changes? Will it confuse messaging to students? – Services will mostly remain the same, but they will also have more robust goals in terms of community outreach, recruitment, selling/marketing the Public Safety brand
 - ii. Historically, how has community engagement supported/not supported students? – We need to leverage our data on this and create a template moving forward
 - b. Safe Haven Program – aim is to include every business on Broadway
 - c. Events to increase engagement – i.e., popcorn with Public Safety
 - d. Increase social media presence – promoting services, speak the language of the students
 - e. Inclusivity in marketing/communication – different languages, different cultural groups
 - f. Engagement with student newspaper
 - i. Meeting with Jelani Cobb, Dean of Journalism, to discuss how to improve messaging/media
- 2) Connections with internal stakeholders – would like committee to help act as spokespeople for Public Safety (responses are slow to communication from Gerald)
 - a. Students with disabilities to discover needs/areas for improvement (i.e., chair lifts)
 - b. Black Students Association
 - c. Social Work (spoke at an all faculty meeting) – historically there has been friction and Gerald positioned himself/Public Safety as a partner
- 3) Connections with external stakeholders
 - a. Meeting with Manhattan DA
 - b. 26th precinct community advisory board
 - c. Ivy Peers’ Public Safety Officers meeting
 - i. We have similarities with NYU – currently a template for us, but the aim is to become a template for them
 - d. Community engagement beyond Columbia community – aim to include broader community and NYPD as well
 - i. Aiming to meet with NYPD Commissioner, has met with Manhattan borough commander – creating partnerships
 - ii. Living close to campus provides a lens into what goes on in the surrounding community
- 4) Other goals

- a. Hiring new key positions
 - i. Emergency Management Director
 - ii. Clery Compliance Coordinator
 - iii. Executive staff – wants to include community in hiring process

Next steps – additional meetings in February, March and April

- Updates on reports focused on Public Safety
- Updates on student wellness and mental health protocols