

## **Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee**

**April 21, 2023**

**11:00am-12:30pm (Zoom and in-person)**

### **Agenda:**

- Welcome, aims for our time
- VP of Public Safety report
- EVP updates
- Discussion: Uniforms
- Discussion: Next year's agenda
- Recognition of graduating committee members

### **Welcome**

Co-Chair Melissa Begg opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

### **VP of Public Safety Report**

#### Staffing plans:

- Director of Emergency Management – Will be specifically responsible for emergency management. Job should be posted in the next few weeks.
- Clery Compliance Director – Will be responsible for training, compiling data, University-wide compliance, etc.

#### Additional safety measures:

- Installing a new guard booth on Morningside Drive (outside of Faculty House) to add additional layer of security
- Developing portable booths
- Expanding deterrents in the area (lighting, etc.) as supplements to what NYPD and the park police do.
- Crime uptick is not as bad as it was in the late 80's and 90's, but social media makes it feel worse.
- Lighting is a high priority deterrent

#### Resource Allocation Mapping (RAM):

- Robust data bank and computer aided dispatch system.
- Use a map to be more proactive rather than reactive.
- Interactive map shows patrols (foot patrols, vehicle patrols) and booth locations.
- Incidents are displayed on the map (with clickable description). Will help Public Safety to identify hot spots.
- Separate maps for Medical Center, Morningside, Manhattanville
- Color coding for buildings (e.g. dorms versus administrative buildings)
- Balance between creating unnecessary fear and creating a resource

- Rollout will be internal to Public Safety.
- Data driven aspects are balanced with community engagement.
- Emphasizing prevention as the best strategy.

## **EVP Updates**

Summary of Teneo/Margolis reports:

- Dual review conducted through 2022, prior to Gerald's arrival
- Purpose – A third party holistic evaluation and review of the organization through a diversity/inclusion lens
- Each firm's report was informed by interviews with affiliates, meetings with students and with the IPSAC
- Scope of the reports was very broad
- Still being reviewed by senior leadership

Key takeaways that are relevant to IPSAC:

- There is a strong Public Safety organization at Columbia
- Recommendations for improvement were made
- Takeaways:
  - Call for greater collaboration and community building between campuses
  - NYPD relationships should be institutionalized and not based on individual relationships
  - Proactive engagement with students and community is important
  - Training program is a key strength of the organization
  - Public Safety should continue to be unarmed
  - IPSAC's work is good and important

Discussion:

NYPD relationships – How do we reconcile negative feelings about the NYPD on/around campus and about Public Safety looking too much like NYPD officers (in terms of uniform)?

- Public Safety officers are unarmed, which is a key difference
- Creating stronger relationships with the 26<sup>th</sup> precinct
- NYPD presence is only for emergency situations

Does the report touch on how people feel on campus?

- Morningside Park incident communication helped – a lack of communication can create stress for students
- Mixed feelings on Public Safety communications – triggering for some and relieving to others.
- Perception of Public Safety on campus was generally positive.
- Public Safety officers are unarmed, but committed and dedicated to keeping everyone safe on campus.
- Gerald is paying attention to what's going on, working with staff on communication strategy
- Being aware contributes to personal safety. Public Safety is arming the community with education to make good safety decisions.

- Marketing of tools and resources at the community's disposal.
- At night, students seem visibly worried about safety. More anxiety about safety now due to increased information sharing (social media, etc.), which has changed safety perceptions.

#### **Discussion: Uniforms**

- Softer visible appearance, while remaining identifiable. Defining where this change is appropriate (i.e., residence halls).
- Visibility is important and uniforms serve as a deterrent at certain posts.
- Considering a Columbia blue, reflective shirt with an embroidered patch.
- Concerns about our uniforms looking too much like NYPD. This is perceived as helpful to some, but triggering to others.
- Gerald is seeking input from guards as it will potentially affect their quality of life. Will bring recommendations back to the committee and the community.

#### **Discussion: Next year's agenda**

##### **Suggestions:**

- Increase student engagement and develop Public Safety's social media presence, establishing more of an identity, humanizing the department
  - New version of app is collaborative – can we highlight this on social media?
  - Different guidelines for Public Safety on social media communications
- Access to buildings – issues with swipe access (other day to day issues?)
- Inclusivity and anti-racism work – original commitment and goal of the group. How can we bring this back to the forefront of our conversations?
- Continue internal and external communication with the community to mitigate perception issues and strengthen relationships/connections and shared visions

#### **Recognition of graduating committee members**

- Sergio Butron
- Valeria Contreras
- Jae Joon Lee
- Lijia Zheng

#### **Next steps:**

We will resume in the fall semester.

Invitation to send in agenda items for the Committee.