

**Public Safety Oversight Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes of
February 25, 2009**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Brenda Allen, Elayna Boucher, Russell Carey, Bochay Drum, Daniel Feinglos, James Green, Matthew Gillette, Christopher Harwood, Bruce Holt, Margaret Klawunn, Thomas Lasater, Stephen Lynch, Mark Porter, John Ryan and James Simmons

Guests:

Michelle Nuey, Department of Public Safety and David Sherry, Computing and Information Services

Committee Members Absent:

Curtis Harris, Tracey Simon and Corey Walker

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting opened with a welcome from the committee chairperson, Russell Carey, and then around the table introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes of November 20, 2009 were approved.

Chief's Report:

Chief Porter provided the committee with copies of the following campus reports, statistics and updates:

Campus Crime Update: The campus crime update provided statistics on the number of robberies, burglaries, larcenies and assaults reported to DPS over the previous three-year period (2006, 2007 and 2008). The statistics indicated a:

- 36.84% decrease in robberies
- 25% decrease in assaults
- 33.33% increase in larcenies
- 36.92% increase in burglaries

It was noted that the theft of laptop computers from residence hall rooms and offices account for 75% of the reported larcenies and burglaries on campus. The Chief noted that the decrease in the number of reported robberies and assaults can be attributed to the increase in the number of officers patrolling the campus area. DPS continues to send monthly emails notices to the campus community encouraging and reminding students to lock their dorm rooms. It was suggested that the report on assaults include a break-down of assaults by students vs. non-students.

Annual Stop Data Report: The report provided the field stop data and the motor vehicle stop data for 2008. The data indicated an increase in the number of stops reported, the number of persons recorded during those stops and the number of suspicious persons reported. The Chief stated that the number of

stops, resulting from reports to DPS has more than doubled. Below is a comparison chart of the number of field stops and the number of persons stopped for years 2006, 2007 and 2008:

- 2006 –Reported a total of 116 field stops and 202 persons stopped.
- 2007 –Reported a total of 124 field stops and 192 persons stopped
- 2008 –Reported a total of 139 field stops and 225 persons stopped.

The data is sorted in various ways, *i.e.*, race, gender, and Brown affiliation, officer initiated vs. stops resulting from a report to DPS, and by day of the week and the time of day. Chief Porter noted that they no longer have an “unknown” category for race; officers have been trained to classify an individual’s race based on their perception.

Motor Vehicle Stop Data: In January 2008, DPS began conducting motor vehicle stops of suspicious vehicles and vehicles posing a danger to the community. The report indicated a total of 31 motor vehicle stops during this time period. The report is listed and can be viewed on the DPS Website.

Citizen Complaint Report 2008: The report provided a comparison chart of the number of complaints received for 2008, compared to the number of complaints received over the previous three years (2005, 2006 and 2007).

- 12 complaints reported in 2005
- 14 complaints reported in 2006
- 15 complaints reported in 2007
- 6 complaints reported in 2008

The Chief noted that the decrease in the number of complaints is attributed to the increase in the amount of officer training and outreach being provided. The committee agreed that based on the three years worth of data, there is no indication or pattern that would suggest individuals are being stopped based on their race. The department has instituted a new complaint process flow chart that outlines the complaint process and provides a brief synopsis of the types of complaints and or inquiries received. The new flow chart is on the DPS website and it may be produced as a brochure.

Law Enforcement Technology Initiatives Status Report: The committee received an update and status report on DPS technology initiatives and the number of recommendations that DPS has moved forward on, including:

- Communication Center Project Update
- Lap-top Computers installed in DPS Cruisers.
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Trunk Radio System, to provide a higher quality of radio communications within DPS and Providence Police and Fire.

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CCTV External Security Cameras, installed twenty-two security cameras in various locations on campus in addition to emergency call boxes installed with security cameras.

Community Relations and Outreach and Safety Education and Training: The committee reviewed the Community Relations and Outreach Bureau Report and Training Update for February 25, 2009. The report provided a detailed listing of all the Officer Training Programs including Diversity Training, Community Relations Outreach and Safety Events provided by DPS officers and staff with the goal of promoting awareness and providing education to prevent or reduce crime on campus. The training report provided a detailed list of all training provided to newly hired DPS officers, as well as, a list of training provided to current DPS officers and staff in 2008. A list of upcoming classes, training sessions and community events planned for the spring semester and throughout the year was also listed.

Laptop Thefts: A total of ninety-one (91) laptop computers were reported stolen in 2008, compared to a total of fifty (50) laptops computers reported stolen the previous year. DPS continues to send out bulletins and postings alerting students about the thefts and reminding them to keep their dorm rooms locked. DPS has been active in targeting laptop thefts and creating events and opportunities for students, faculty and staff on preventing property theft. In addition, DPS began offering free laptop engraving sessions, the laptop is etched with a code that will identify the owner and a non-removable security decal is affixed to the laptop. The engraving process is not only used for laptops but can be applied to other office equipment and valuables as well. DPS offered training sessions and information on other devices that can be purchased specially for securing laptop computers such as the Lo-Jack, Absolute and cable locks with alarms that will sound if the cable is cut. It was noted that DPS advertised the training sessions however, no students attended. The committee discussed additional ways to get the information out to students. It was suggested that the bulletins and training announcements targeting students be “concise and to the point,” such as a one pager with bullets. It was also noted that Residential Life purchased safes for students to store their valuables, but students are not using the safes.

The committee discussed various options for getting students to remember to lock their doors, and exploring new technology to prevent unauthorized access into residence halls. A suggestion was made to explore the option of installing doors that will automatically lock when the door is closed, or the keyless, door locks that use security codes in order to gain access.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Geneva Ferrell