Public Safety Oversight Committee Meeting  
November 5, 2015  
Horace Mann  
3:30pm – 5:00pm  

Committee Members in Attendance:  Mark Porter, Russell Carey, Peter Holden, Joseph Donnelly, Marylou McMillan, Mary Grace Almandrez, Patricia Falcon, Jack Haglin, Alexandria Volkening, James Green, Amy Greenwald, Justin Pace, Timothy Shriner, James Simmons, Bruce Holt, Michelle Nuey, Justice Gaines, Eli Binder, Jessica Brown, Charles Carroll and Dilum Aluthge  

Committee Members Absent:  Liza Cariaga-Lo, Aditya Kumar, and Jacqueleen DeSisto  

Meeting Minutes:  The meeting minutes for April 30, 2015 were approved with the recommendation from several members to provide more depth.  

Introductions:  Russell Carey welcomed new and returning committee members and provided a brief overview of the history of the PSOC and its objectives.  

Chief’s report:  

Campus Crime and Service Activity Report:  YTD January 1, 2015- October 30, 2015  

o Robberies:  Chief Porter explained that although we have seen a 33% decrease in robberies over the last year, over the past two weeks we have been thrust into a minor crime wave with three (3) robberies occurring on 10/23, 10/25 and 11/3 impacting the area of Prospect Street.  Crime Alerts were distributed to the Brown Community.  PPD Lt. Joseph Donnelly indicated that they had a potential robbery suspect.  DPS has enhanced its campus patrols.  

o Calls for Service:  (every call that comes into the DPS Communications Center) Service calls have increased this year.  
To-date: January 1, 2015 to October 30, 2015, 17,840  

o Admits/Unlocks:  To-date: January 1, 2015 – October 30, 2015, 5,890  

o Total Alarms:  January 1, 2015 – October 30, 2015, 2,770  

o Escorts/transports:  January 1, 2015 – October 30, 2015, 628  

o Aggravated Assaults:  There were (2) reports of aggravated assault, one (1) in March 2015 and a second one in October 2015.
Larcenies: 2% increase between 2014 and 2015. YTD: 102 larcenies.

Question:
What do you think is responsible for the decrease in theft?

Answer:
We have seen a significant decrease in thefts of laptops. The decrease may be attributed to enhanced student awareness about theft potentially in residence halls and also due to increased property registration opportunities.

Laptop thefts: From January 1, 2015 to October 30, 2015, there were 5 laptops stolen. We have seen a significant decrease in thefts of laptops.

Recommendation:
Committee members recommended capturing the type of property stolen to include other forms of technology such as tablets, iPads, bicycles and smartphones.

Citizens’ Complaints and Field Data Reports:

Colonel Porter provided an overview of complaints and field stop data collection process.

Citizen complaints data: in 2015 (January 1 – October 30) Five (5) complaints were filed:
- One (1) February 2015, exonerated
- One (1) March 2015, not sustained
- One (1) May 2015, sustained
- Two (2) October 2015, pending

A 3-year comparison of civilian complaints:
- 2013 (13) complaints
- 2014 (4) complaints
- YTD 2015 (5) complaints

Question:
If a complaint is sustained, what happens?

Answer:
There are a range of potential correctional outcomes that can be applied depending on the severity of the charge. Potential outcomes could include written/verbal warnings, suspension or termination. Specific information regarding a specific case outcome for officers is confidential due to Personnel Policy.
Question:
How transparent is the process?

Answer:
The complainant in the case is contacted with both notification of the process of the investigation into the complaint and the outcome. Our Citizens’ Complaint Report is published on the department website each quarter.

Russell Carey and Chief Porter explained the department’s jurisdiction, referencing the statute of jurisdiction. Anyone, regardless of affiliation, may file a complaint with the Department of Public Safety.

Question:
What is the Department of Public Safety’s jurisdiction in the area of the Medical School?

Answer:
Brown DPS has jurisdiction of all Brown University property and streets immediately adjacent. Brown DPS does patrol in the area of the Brown Medical School, Davol, 70 Ship Street and 222 Richmond St., were Brown University Departments are located. Brown DPS does not patrol in the area of the teaching hospitals.

Field Stop data: January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015 – 70 total field stops with 101 persons documented. No concerning trends reported.

Question:
What is a field stop?

Answer:
A field stop is when an Officer stops or detains someone while observing or investigating a report of suspicious circumstances. However, when assisting with a lockout and an Officer requests an ID while rendering a service, is not considered a field stop. The department also tracks whether the field stop was Officer initiated or not. Often times Officers will respond to a call where a University Community Member reports a “suspicious person or circumstance”.

- Seventy-five percent, (75%) involved warnings issued
- Citations are minimal.

Question:
How is data collected?

Answer:
The department follows a national model of data collection which heavily relies on the Officer’s perception at the time of the stop. The Officer will not ask one’s race, ethnicity or gender per department policy. Information collected at each stop is recorded into a department database. All data is analyzed by personnel in the Professional Standards Bureau.

Question:
How are specific trips to residential halls and off-campus housing documented, specifically for noise complaint calls? It appears that some Residential Peer Leaders are feeling there is an inequitable DPS response and subsequent student conduct referral process for students of color.

Answer:
Incident reports are not generated for service calls and demographic information is not recorded. A log entry for each interaction can be found in the department’s dispatch system.

Recommendation:
Track DPS response calls into residence halls more systematically; cross-reference Office of Student Life data. It was also suggested that DPS monitor residential response activity at specific times during the semester as a pilot approach.

Note:
The Chief’s Report was not reviewed in its entirety. The Training and Community Relations Reports were not discussed. All Committee Members received electronic copies of the Chief’s Report and the UCS Poll Report in advance of the meeting. Hard copies of all reports were furnished to all members at the meeting.

Other Business:

Two Committee Members inquired about the department’s tracking of Officers’ firearm un-holstering activity. Committee members also inquired about the University’s process of reassessing the department’s status as an armed agency.
Russell Carey suggested a subsequent Public Safety Oversight Committee meeting take place in December to permit a broader discussion and review of relevant department policies and training practices.