Minutes
University Community Relations Alliance
January 25, 2017 from 4:00-5:30 PM
Warwick Ballroom, UNCW Campus

*Members Present:* Stephanie Ganser, Amy Beatty, Richard King, Lt. DeNoia, Andrea Weaver, Jennie McNeilly, Brent Massey, Neal Shulman, Lt. Ingram, Sim Wilkes, Emily Wilkes, Miranda Rutledge, Corey Boyett, Joseph Herlihy, Roger Ryan

*Members Absent:* Rob McGee, Patrice Willetts

*Community Members & UNCW Staff Present:* Dr. Mike Walker, Elvan Thorup, Hilary Loso, Mike Caulders, Jane Chiffriller, Bill DiNome, Lauren Rivenbark, Hannah Hopkins, Fred Doll, June Doll, Dr. Katrin Wesner, Dr. Candice Johnston, Diane Edwards, Dale Shew, Dr. Murray Seidel, Sandra Mihal, Ocean Mihal, Nicole Fedders

Introductions of Alliance Members

Voting of October 2016 Minutes- Approved
Dr. Murray Seidel wanted to correct the minutes of what he said:
- Parking is one of the major problems, parking on lawns, not just students
- University not going to buy properties on College Rd.
- Should consider creating special parking district to solve the problem, there are limitations, police are overstressed and won’t continue to do it

Reports

I. Stephanie Ganser, UNCW
- UNCW had transfer and freshmen orientation in January where we welcomed 237 new freshmen and 303 new transfer students. UNCW current enrollment is 14,470.
- The Dean of Students, Dr. Mike Walker, the District Attorney of New Hanover County, Ben David, spoke to the freshmen about expectations of behavior on and off campus. I spoke to all of the transfer students and communicated those same messages.
- The relationship between WPD and UNCW is stronger than ever. Lt Ingram and I met one on one when he started. We have been in communication weekly, and sometimes daily about district 5 and district 6. He was also helpful upcoming investigations we have for UNCW. WPD and UNCW PD have been working closely and have a direct line of communication when issues arise.
- 100 good neighbor packets were made for the spring semester. The neighbors who received them were Rose Avenue, College Acres Drive, Nash Drive/Hillsdale area, and each student who received a citation since August from WPD. The packets included information from Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, WPD noise and alcohol polices, as well as UNCW policies and off-campus expectations.
• From October 2016 to January 2017, there have been noise citations. When I receive citations and they are Cape Fear Community College students, I have emailed those to Rob McGee.
• There were 13 underage possession citations off-campus. Those students will go through the New Hanover court system.
• I have had 6 one on one meetings with students who have been cited twice in 6 months
• All students where it is their first time violation will receive a letter of expected behavior from the dean’s office, including the student code of life off-campus expectations.
• On Friday, January 13, Lt Ingram, UNCW Police Officer Sgt Todd Curry and Major Bercham did a walk and talk on Rose avenue. We knocked on about 15 houses. Spoke to residents about expected behavior and offered UNCW and WPD as resources.
• There was a robbery on college acres drive in early January, but after an investigation, there were no UNCW students involved in being victims of the crime or suspects. A rifle was stolen out of one of the vehicles, but it was not a student, and the rifle was legal.
• Corey Boyett has continued to share with me the trash can violations in District 5. Some are homeowners and some are renters. If the violations are on College Acres Drive, I emailed CAGNA leadership of Emily and Sim.
• Code Enforcement and Solid Waste attended the Off-Campus Housing fair in November at UNCW. We have almost 400 students attend the fair where they looked at the options for living off-campus in the apartment complexes. They spoke to many students (which they will share in their report)

II. Lieutenant Louis DeNoia, UNCW
• Bike larceny is down, although from last year to this year is up
• Alcohol is down, this year from last year is down
• Drugs is up, this year from last year is up
• All are lowest in seven years
• Security guards patrol nightly on bikes, foot, and cars
• Two guards during the night
• In process of advertising the last police officer position, making them fully staffed
• Still doesn’t change fact that they have a lot of stuff on their plate
• Doing the best they can and presence with security guards will help in future
• See attached excel report of statistics

III. Lieutenant Mat Ingram, Wilmington Police Department
• Big problem is breaking and entering
• Averaging 35 every ten days, including residential and commercial
• Run every 10 days and reports would be made based on information and give to officers to inform them of hot spots and trends in crime
• Steady decline in stats, down to 10s and 20s
• Had recent spike up to 45
• Detectives are following up with any reports and people are being caught for their crimes (basically they are doing great at stopping the crime and prosecuting the people)
• Approaching all time lows in major crimes
• No hotspots right now – if there was one, it would be right around UNCW area
• Adding four paroles- almost 50 officers working east side
• Walk and Talk- reminding them that they are temporary residents and there are also permanent residents
• Having monthly staff meetings to coordinate and communicate crime areas
• Sharing a lot of information
• Hopeful get to University agree to dispatch UNCW officers with city officers to control some areas (roads that board the roads at UNCW when they are dispatched) for presence only because UNCW violations usually hold more weight because parents are informed
• Concerns from UNCW are jurisdiction problems

IV. Corey Boyett, City of Wilmington

Compliance activity from 10-12-2016 to 1-17-2017:
112 notices were given, 17 final notice letters sent, and 3 civil citations issued.

General updates:
  • Stephanie Ganser, Assistant Dean has been copied on all final trash warning letters. She checks to see if they are students.
  • I have sent UNCW Solid Waste pamphlets listing regulations and the 2017 trash schedule information for the good neighbor packets that go out twice a year.
  • I have gone out every week to look for trash cans out past the deadline.
  • Thank you for the continual calls reporting trash can/bulky violations.
  • I will continue with tenant and landlord outreach.

Enforcement Outreach
  • UNCW hosted its semi-annual off-campus housing fair on November 16. The Public Services Compliance Officer attended and provided information on Stormwater and Solid Waste regulations. The fair was a good opportunity to have direct contact with students choosing to live off campus in an independent home or apartment. The students were mostly interested in regulations pertaining to pet waste and trash collection procedures. UNCW had 368 students attend and the compliance officer spoke to approximately 100 of those students directly.

V. Joe Garnett, City of Wilmington

• Ran map showing parking violations within the one mile radius of UNCW
• There is a decrease in the number
• More compliant driven
• 119 cases

• October 11, 2016 thru January 17, 2017
• 14 notices to owners and occupants issued for parking violations
• 6 invalid complaints
• 5 Voluntary compliances
• 1 void
• 2 active cases
• 14 notices to owners and occupants issued for public nuisance violations
• Inspections in this area are conducted weekly and some dwellings are being monitored more due to the excessive number of repeat for parking violations.
• When staff receive complaints on open parking cases this information is entered as documentation for this case file.
• Code Enforcement participated in UNCW Off-Campus Housing Fair that was held Wednesday November 16, 2016. Officer Joseph Garnett and Officer Christopher Hatcher were our representatives. There was 368 students who attended in 3 hours, which makes 100+ more than last fall! Code Enforcement had approximately 100 visits that stopped by our booth. We provided the students with information about Minimum Housing Issues, junk vehicles, public nuisances, and the University Parking Ordinance. Officer Garnett and Officer Hatcher distributed information to the students regarding the “University Area” which is the one mile radius from the center of the UNCW campus. The officers also took complaints from the students as well. Code Enforcement is planning to participate in the Off-Campus Housing Fair again which will take place in spring 2017 at UNCW.

Public Comment

Elvan Thorup
• Didn’t know what the students are looking for at the Off-Campus Housing Fair
• Asked who makes the displays
• Stephanie gave information about number of apartment complexes that come to the Fair and answered questions about the Fair
• No retail and agreements signed
• Corey- most students prefer to rent a house instead of apartment
• Which is cheaper?- Apartments
• Problems with the amount of students living in one house
• 3 students in one house, asking if this is effective
• This code will be hopefully discussed next period
• People prefer houses because of pets

Dr. Murray Seidel
• Who does he call about Clear Water Run Project?
• Can still call Dave
• Clear Run Creek Project will finish in summer
• Had break-in in house because of the difficulty to get across the creek
• The creek project will clear up the creek
• Question: Project will change access to his property and his neighbors properties – What are you going to do about the neighbors safety regarding creek access?
- Question: 7 cubic yards for house, he has had yard waste left in his yard for three acres
- Directed to solid waste division

Neil Shulman
- Asked about whether Stephanie contacted parents and she said that they are not going to contact parents of students for off campus violations
- Said that the friendly neighbor packets are a waste of paper
- Says students need to have violations clearly stated, information needs to be more detailed
- UNCW costs the citizens of Wilmington a lot of money
- What has UNCW done for the city of Wilmington?
- Neal said that they don’t do anything for the citizens
- Neal said that if UNCW is going to be here, the citizens deserve not to pay for UNCW and deserve to get something out of it

Emily Wilkes
- Thanked Lt Ingram for his help in quick responses and follow-ups
- Issue- PERCH (off-campus housing site)
- One of the members wanted to know if they could attach a document to residents that would state the code of expectations to every housing listed
- Attaching a letter informing students in a family residential area that an area is a family-friendly area
- Jennie said letter is already being used and may be modified
- What happens when violations are issued?
- Parking- send out notification and monitor it
- If no compliance, they send out violations
- 5014 College Acres Drive problem house- six students living there
- She visited the home and let them know that they are not appreciating the mess around the house
- Three students are new
- How do you follow up with old students and new students?