



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

August 12, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Fall Crime Suppression Deployment

The Newark Police Department will begin its 2009 Fall Crime Suppression Plan this week. In past years, the city experiences an increase in street crime during the first few months of the return of University of Delaware students. Last year the police department instituted its first Fall Crime Initiative, which substantially reduced incidents of robbery and aggravated assault.

Newark Police Chief Paul Tiernan stated, “After reviewing last year’s crime trends, we decided to begin our initiative two weeks earlier. Many students living off campus have already returned to the city.”

The Newark Department will increase police presence in the downtown and off campus student housing areas of the city. Chief Tiernan stated, “Officers will be patrolling on foot, in marked vehicles, as well as a substantial number of plain clothes officers in unmarked cars.” In addition the police mobile command post will be stationed in the area.

The Newark Police Department also offers the following personal safety advice:

- There is safety in numbers. Don’t walk alone, especially at night.
- Walk on well-lit and heavily traveled routes.
- Walk confidently and at a steady pace.
- Stay away from alleys, obscure doorways, areas of overgrown shrubs, and other places where people can hide.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings. Trust your instincts.
- If you think you are being followed or are in danger, quickly walk to a populated area.
- If a driver asks for directions, do not approach the vehicle.
- Avoid the overconsumption of alcohol. Intoxicated people make easier victims.
- Call 911 to report all suspicious, questionable, or illegal activity.



PRESS RELEASE, Continued

Additionally, the Newark Police Department would like to remind off-campus students of its Party Assistance Policy. The Newark Police Department is concerned with criminal activity taking place at house parties. Examples include armed robbery, theft of valuable personal property, and assault.

To ensure personal safety, the Newark Police Department advises residents against allowing anyone into their homes who is not an invited guest. Party hosts utilizing an "Open Door" policy of allowing unknown persons to enter their residences are creating opportunities for persons with criminal intent to victimize the host and invited guests. Residents are strongly urged to strictly control who has access their homes.

The Newark Police Department recognizes that it is sometimes difficult for the average person to maintain control of a large number of people, as in a party setting. The Department also understands that not every person who is refused access to a party is accepting of the refusal. It is also recognized that summoning the police for assistance may be seen as a risk, since the host is subjected to enforcement of the noise ordinance.

In an effort to prevent serious crimes at parties, the Newark Police Department is encouraging residents to call for police assistance in the event they are hosting a party and cannot control the attendees on their own. These circumstances include unwanted/unknown persons inside the residence, uninvited persons refusing to leave, or a crowd that has grown to an unmanageable number. A party host requesting police assistance in such incidents will not be subject to the same enforcement action taken when a complaint is received from an independent caller.

It is the hope of the Newark Police Department that removing the fear of arrest will convince party hosts to call for police assistance before a serious problem arises.

The Newark Police Department will continue to respond to all complaints of noise violations and similar disturbances from the general public. The officers of the Department will continue to strictly enforce the violations observed upon such responses.

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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