

Resolution 009
A Resolution to Encourage Policy Changes within the Department of Public Safety
Sponsored by: Senator Hagerty

Whereas,

The Catholic University of America Department of Public Safety (DPS) operates a system of emergency call boxes on campus, often referred to as “blue lights”.

Whereas,

The University currently has 115 of these blue lights spread throughout its campus.

Whereas,

The University informs its students that in any location on campus, a student should be able to see a minimum of two of these blue lights.

Whereas,

The majority of the University’s blue light phones can be used as a wayfinding system for visually impaired students.

Whereas,

DPS provides crime alerts regarding crimes that happen on campus and in the Brookland community to the campus community in accordance with the Clery Act.¹

Whereas,

These alerts are often received hours after the crime has been committed.

Whereas,

DPS generally only provides crime alerts for crimes that directly affect students.

Whereas,

This strategy leads to crimes that occur on campus going unreported to the campus community.

Whereas,

This strategy does not allow students to learn of threats to the campus community and their safety in real time.

¹ <https://clerycenter.org/policy-resources/the-clery-act/>

Whereas,

The University currently contracts Special Police Officers (SPO) to assist DPS with their security operation during the overnight hours.

Whereas,

These SPO are currently stationed nightly under the Taylor St. bridge and at the Brookland-CUA Metro station until Metro closing, and in front of Gibbons Hall from Metro closing through the remainder of the night.

Whereas,

The increasing rent of area off-campus apartments on Michigan Ave. and Monroe St. have caused students to look elsewhere for off-campus housing, including housing options located on Taylor St. NE.

Whereas,

This change has led to more students using Harwood Rd. NE to access their apartments from campus.

Whereas,

Harwood Rd. NE can be a dark and dangerous place for students to be late at night while walking back to their off campus housing locations.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests the following policy change requests to the Department of Public Safety:

1. DPS work to add more blue light call boxes to campus to ensure that all areas of campus are accessible to blue lights, and so that students can see a minimum of two blue light call boxes from all areas of campus.
 - a. DPS also work to find the feasibility of using our blue light phones as wayfinding tools for visually impaired students.
2. DPS update their crime reporting procedure to include the following changes:
 - a. Send crime reports to the University community in a timely manner, no more than two (2) hours following the completion of the DPS/Metropolitan Police Department response.
 - b. Report all crimes that occur within the boundaries of the University's campus, whether or not the crime directly involves a member of the University community.
 - c. Provide real time crime updates to the campus community via University communication channels (text, email, etc.) regarding crimes and law enforcement responses occurring on campus.

3. An additional SPO be stationed on Harwood Rd. NE nightly to ensure the safety of students using the road to return home.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Jimmy Harrington
President of the Student Government Association

Weston Kirby
Vice President of the Student Government Association

