

## **William Paterson University Police Department Parents' Advisory**

The safety of your child on the campus of William Paterson University is important to both you and the university's Department of Public Safety. To alleviate any of your concerns about your child safety on this campus, this department is offering you an explanation of the services the Department of Public Safety provides to parents, and it is mentioning a few services that it does not provide to parents.

There are three specific services that this department offers parents, and at least three services this department does not offer parents. The services this department provides are vehicle registration, emergency contact, and welfare checks. The services we do not provide are arranging for handicapped spaces for temporarily disabled students, notifying parents of parking violations, and notifying parents of a student's criminal activity. Those services are discussed below.

### **Vehicle registration**

To enhance the security of the campus, the University requires all vehicles, which are parked on the campus, to be registered with its Department of Public Safety and to display appropriate university decals or permits. As a result, all vehicles parked on the campus must bear a valid William Paterson University parking permit/decal, which must be visibly displayed whenever the vehicle is parked on campus, and each student and/or university employee must register his/her vehicle with the William Paterson University Department of Public Safety to park on campus. The only exception to the parking decal requirement is a visitor's vehicle parked in designated visitor's spot.

A person need not own a specific vehicle to park it on the university campus. In other words, your child can register your vehicle or a third party vehicle on campus.

At William Paterson University, its community members, who park on campus, are responsible for ensuring that their vehicles or the vehicles, to which they have access, are registered and are operated in conformance with university policy as well as state laws. Only William Paterson University students who are registered for classes and University employees are allowed parking privileges, and first-year resident students are prohibited from registering a vehicle, unless the Associate Vice President of Campus Life determines otherwise. A first year resident student may be permitted to park on campus for health and/or employment reasons by the Associate Vice President of Campus Life, whose office is located in the Student Center.

### **Emergency contact**

Despite the advantages that cellular telephones and computers offer us, there are times when contact is not possible. Those times include when your child's telephone is turned off or is inoperative or is lost or is not being carried. If a personal emergency occurs and you are unable to reach your child, please feel free to contact the Campus Police at (973) 720-2300 and request

assistance, which the police officers will gladly provide.

### **Welfare checks**

Again, despite the available modern methods of communication, sometimes a parent will lose contact with a child. If you do lose contact with your child and you are concerned about the child's well being, please feel free to contact the Campus Police at (973) 720-2300, and request a welfare check for your child. As a result of your request, an officer will determine your child's whereabouts, will request your child to contact you, and will notify you of the result of the welfare check.

### **Handicapped spaces**

In the State of New Jersey, only vehicles bearing a handicapped decal can be parked in a handicapped space. Consequently, if your child experiences a temporary disability, such as a broken ankle, your child needs to acquire a temporary handicap decal in order to park in one of our handicapped spaces. You can help you child gain a temporary handicap decal through your local police department.

This department does not issue temporary handicap decals, and the officers cannot lawfully permit vehicles lacking handicap decals to park in handicapped spaces.

If you have any questions about acquiring a temporary handicap decal, please call the Deputy Director at (973) 720-3207.

### **Notification of parking violations**

If and when a vehicle is improperly parked on campus, that vehicle may be issued a parking violation. If a vehicle is issued a violation, a ticket will be placed in the vehicle's windshield, and the driver of the vehicle will be expected to pay that ticket. Unless the vehicle belongs to a third party and no one pays the ticket, only the student will be aware of the ticket or ticket issued. As a result, if your child is using your vehicle and your child is parking improperly on campus, you will be notified of any unpaid tickets issued to your vehicle. If your child is paying any tickets issued to him/her, you will not be notified.

### **Notification of criminal activity**

If your adult child engages in criminal activity on this campus and the university's police officers discover that activity and take appropriate action, the officers can not notify you of the criminal action. The officers also cannot provide you with a copy of the reports regarding that activity.

Hopefully, this memorandum gives you a better understanding of the services the Department of Public Safety provides the parents of the university's students.