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To the University of Delaware Community:

Recently, crime has spiked across the country. Unfortunately, the effects are being felt in the City of Newark and at our University, and concerns have been raised about the safety of the University community. Be assured that we are taking these recent crimes very seriously, and we are particularly concerned about the incidents that have involved UD students as victims, whether on the campus or not. The safety of our entire community continues to be a top priority.

The University has taken a number of specific actions in the last few weeks to increase the safety of our community.

In August, we appointed Albert J. "Skip" Homiak Jr., who has served with the Delaware State Police for 26 years, in a new position as Executive Director of Campus and Public Safety. He brings a wide range of experience in law enforcement, safety and security to develop and implement a University-wide safety and security plan.

Among the crime fighting strategies our University Police have put in place are

- increased visibility of UD police officers in the community,
- expanded foot patrols,
- administrators working night shifts to free up officers to work in the field,
- locating the UD Police Command Post off campus in problem locations and
- dedicated officers specifically looking for signs of criminal activity,

By instituting overlapping shifts and paying overtime, we also have increased the numbers of officers on the street during critical times.

Additionally, we are using crime analysis and networking with several other law enforcement agencies to look for common aspects of specific crimes that are occurring in areas outside Newark.

University Police continue to work closely with the City of Newark Police to enhance police presence in the areas adjacent to the campus. In August, the Newark Police Department announced a Crime Suppression Plan, which includes aggressive patrol tactics and a greater police presence in areas of the city where crimes are more likely to occur.

At the University, we continue to build our staff of trained police officers. Twelve recent graduates of the Police Academy have joined the force. Currently, they are partnered with veteran officers for a 12-week field training period. In the near future, they will be on their own. These additional officers will allow us to have a more visible presence and develop additional strategies that rely on manpower.

In addition to the actions of our trained officers, a very important component to crime fighting involves awareness and the reporting of suspicious activity by the members of our community. The greatest assistance you can provide to University Police is to minimize the possibility that you will become a crime victim. Do not put yourself in a vulnerable position and observe suggested safety precautions. Keep informed by reading the "Crime Alert" articles that are posted on UDaily, or you can subscribe so you will be notified every time such an article is posted.

We are resolved to ensuring that the campus and surrounding communities are safe; your cooperation is key to achieving success.

Sincerely,

Patrick Harker
President

Albert J. "Skip" Homiak Jr.
Executive Director of Campus and Public Safety