

# 2011 On-Campus Safety Walk: Post-Report



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*University of Maryland, College Park*  
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*"The overall goal is to make this a top-20 college town — just like we're a top-20 research university — and we will not continue to rise unless the surrounding area is attractive and vibrant."*<sup>1</sup>  
—President Loh, University of Maryland

### **Overview:**

The annual Safety Walks are intended to create a dialogue between undergraduate and graduate students, police, community leaders, and the University administration regarding safety concerns of students. This year, the Safety Walks were a joint effort of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Graduate Student Government (GSG), along with the University of Maryland Police Department, Prince George's County Police, and City of College Park.

### **Objective:**

The goal of the Safety Walks is to address physical safety and perceived safety concerns on and around the University of Maryland campus, in order to improve the quality of life for all members of the campus community.

### **Routes:**

#### **Part 1: Both GSG and SGA Groups:**

- Start at La Plata Beach
- Walk across Bridge to Terrapin Trail Garage
- Walk along Tree Line towards Main Comcast Center Parking Lots
- Cross Bridge to School of Public Health

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<sup>1</sup> Abutaleb, Yasmeeen. "Loh's Task Forces Prepare to Deliver Reports." *The Diamondback*. September 13, 2011. <<http://www.diamondbackonline.com/news/loh-s-task-forces-prepare-to-deliver-reports-1.2588948#.ToKTsXNjFAE>>.

**Part 2a: Only SGA Group:**

- Start at Yale Ave./Rossborough Drive Parking Lot
- Walk through Leonardtown Areas (New and Old)
- Return to Yale Ave. on Leonardtown Community Center side
- Finish at Yale Ave./Police Substation

**Part 2b: Only GSG Group:**

- Start at Campus Drive/Lot 1c
- Walk along Campus Drive towards Adelphi Road
- Finish at Graduate Hills/Tulane Drive

**Summary:**

The On-Campus Safety Walk occurred Wednesday, October 12th, 2011 from 6:45pm to 9:15pm. The Safety Walk began with all participants assembled at the STAMP Student Union in Terrapin Rooms B and C for brief remarks by Matthew Popkin (SGA), Erin Bone Steele (GSG), and Chief of Police David Mitchell (UMPD).

The routes were planned using multiple survey methods to respond to areas where undergraduate students and graduate students had specific concerns. A charter bus was generously provided by the Department of Transportation Services to transport the group(s) from one area to another. All participants walked the first route, and then participants split into two sections; one walked in areas that were of concern primarily to undergraduate students, while the other walked in areas that were identified by graduate students. The nighttime walk provided the best opportunity to observe conditions and concerns that students perceive as unsafe.

**Media Coverage:**

<http://www.diamondbackonline.com/opinion/guest-column-from-sketchy-to-safe-1.2643064-.TqpY2pwVKxE>

## On-Campus Safety Walk Follow-Up:

Throughout and after the walk, the SGA and GSG collected notes from participants to put together a list of action items regarding the campus environment. These have been tentatively marked with names of individuals or offices that may be responsible for responding to the stipulated concerns. Based on conversations held during the walk, we also have included additional thoughts regarding potential projects or ideas for the future.

### Part 1:

Concern	Description	Follow Up
Lighting	2 lights out along School of Public Health wall at stairs by Eppley Rec. Center	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting	Multiple lights out along Terrapin Trail leading to the garage (has been fixed)	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting	Light out on just shy of bridge to School of Public Health from Lot PP1	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting	Angle light fixture in center of Lot 2F that faces away from Cambridge Community to increase light at parking spaces near fence	Pat Fitzhugh
Landscape	Trees covering light at School of Public Health crosswalk (at bridge and Lot PP1)	Josh Nadler
Landscape	Branches hanging over parking spaces at Lot 2F	Josh Nadler
Landscape	Pine tree in need of trimming next to Terrapin Trail Garage Elevator	Josh Nadler
Lighting Request	Add second light pole near tree at the School of Public Health end of Lot 2F	Facilities Management
Lighting	Light out at Comcast Center in front of Gate E near Terrapin Trail Garage	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting Request	Add 2nd light to existing fixture along road near base of Bel Air staircase	Facilities Management
Lighting Request	Additional light in dark area at staircase landing between Centreville and Bel Air halls	Facilities Management

**Part 2a:**

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>
Lighting	Light out by Bldg 245 on inside of community	Pat Fitzhugh
Landscape	Tree trimming to expose light between Residential Facilities Lot and Leonardtown Building directly adjacent to that Lot	Josh Nadler
Landscape & Lighting	Tree trimming across from the picnic table section and lower light to 15ft near building 249	Josh Nadler & Facilities Management
Lighting	Light out by basketball court between New/Old Leonardtown	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting	Main entry lights out on Old Leonardtown Buildings 241 and 242	Pat Fitzhugh
Lighting Request	Light pole addition by Sigma Nu to be considered (along Hopkins road)	Facilities Management
Lighting Request	Completely dark in city lot across from 16e, back of Sigma X; Consider adding 2nd light fixture to light pole overlooking city lot near Leonardtown Community Center	Facilities Management
Traffic and Pedestrian Control	Around Lot K5/16b and Police Substation: consider speed control modes (stop sign/speed bumps) and finishing the dirt path for encouraging pedestrians to not be in the street	Facilities Management and UMDPS

**Part 2b:**

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>
Lighting	Pole lamp at corner, opposite side of street from Art/Sociology Building, no pole number visible (adjacent pole number: AR11208)	Pat Fitzhugh or Pepco
Lighting	Light out lower floor, Art/Sociology Building overhang on south-east corner (has been fixed)	Pat Fitzhugh
Landscape	Overhanging trees on sidewalk along Campus Drive/ Lot 1.	Josh Nadler
Lighting	2 pole lamps out on grounds of Graduate Hills Apts at Tulane & Adelphi entrance	Southern Management
Lighting	Pole lamp at entrance to Graduate Hills Apts leasing office	Southern Management
Lighting	Most lights out on the walls of Graduate Hills Apts buildings	Southern Management

Lighting	2 pole lamps out at corner of Graduate Hills Apts building 3401	Southern Management
Lighting	Campus Drive (opposite Methodist church), multiple numbers on pole include #813419-9127	Pepco
Lighting	Campus Drive, light pole #1743, flickers on and off, too dim to illuminate area	Pepco
Road Sign	Adelphi Road at University Blvd, road sign says “D P D” (all other letters missing)	County Highways?
Crosswalk	Campus Drive at Presidential Drive, faded and not visible	?

**Additional Thoughts:**

- Almost all of campus has closed-circuit surveillance managed by the police. There are signs stating this, but only at the entrances to campus. Would it be possible to post additional, short reminder signs in some areas, particularly areas of student concern? The path and bridge between the Eppley Recreation Center and Comcast areas have appeared on student surveys annually as areas of perceived concern, despite the fact that they are well lit and crime data does not indicate it is a particularly dangerous area. A reminder that the area is under active surveillance might be a simple way to reassure pedestrians and further deter potential criminal activity.
  
- Many Graduate Hills crimes are property crimes, particularly car break-ins. Would it be possible for Southern Management / Off-Campus Housing Office to provide all new residents with a one-page printed “move-in guide” for making their time at UM safer? It could include phone numbers for campus police, info on the university’s walking escort service, and instructions to never leave *any* items within view inside their vehicles.
  
- Graduate Hills apartments have had improvements over the last year. They have updated the fire safety systems, including installing new sprinklers. Also, Graduate Hills apartment grounds have a 5-camera closed circuit surveillance system managed by the University police. Cameras are on a pattern. (Cameras cannot see in windows.)

- How can the GSG and SGA help advertise the campus' police escort service, NITE Ride, and other safety services provided?
- Also, once the Pepco reporting online system is available, the SGA and GSG can post links on their respective web pages, along with a link for reporting campus light outages.
- The trash dumpsters in the Leonardtown Community were not pushed in fully leaving much space in the partially fenced in waste collection area. Whether this presented a safety concern was uncertain.
- Many property crimes and thefts in the Leonardtown Community have been noted to occur on the first floor, especially when windows and lights show valuable items. Community assistants and representatives of the community should emphasize practices and habits that will reduce the appeal of theft such as closing window shades, turning off lights, laptop locks, etc.
- Seen from the bus - a crosswalk has been added at Hartwick near Graduate Gardens Apartments, which was requested at last year's 2010 Safety Walk.

*Thanks to all who attended:*

David Mitchell, Chief of Police, UMPDS  
Lisa Breeden, Program Management Specialist, Office of the Chief, UMPDS  
August Kenner, Sergeant, UMPDS  
Christopher Jagoe, Major, UMPDS  
Marc Limansky, Captain, UMPDS  
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Jaron Black, Officer, Prince George's County Police  
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David Allen, Director, Department of Transportation Services, UMCP  
Cindy Felice, Director of Resident Life, UMCP  
Dennis Passarella-George, Assistant Director of Resident Life, UMCP  
Carlo Colella, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management, UMCP  
Pat Fitzhugh, Coordinator, Electric Shop, UMCP  
Josh Nadler, Campus Arborist, UMCP  
Laura Wildesen, Director of Performance and Maintenance, UMCP  
Alan Sactor, Assistant Director, Department of Environmental Safety, UMCP  
Anna Bedford, President, GSG, UMCP  
Erin Bone Steele, Vice President for Student Affairs, GSG, UMCP  
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Corie Stretton, President, Residence Hall Association, UMCP  
Sasha Azar, Vice President, Residence Hall Association, UMCP

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