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University of Missouri Police Department becomes primary response agency for Greek houses and some off-campus Residential Life housing

The University of Missouri has reached an agreement with the City of Columbia that makes the MU Police Department the primary responding law enforcement agency for Greek houses affiliated with the university. MUPD also will be the primary responder for eight buildings at Campus Lodge, 2900 Old Highway 63 S., which are being leased this academic year by MU for the Residential Life program.

These changes, which go into effect soon, were made possible through several memorandums of understanding that were signed tonight by city and MU officials. Under the new agreements, MUPD will be the first law enforcement agency to respond to emergencies in any of its primary response areas. The Columbia Police Department will be available for backup, if necessary.

The change expands MUPD's longstanding relationship with the fraternity and sorority community and allows officers to patrol neighborhoods and enforce the law where Greek houses are located. The agreement involving Campus Lodge applies only to the eight buildings being leased by MU. The rest of the apartment complex — including yards, sidewalks, parking lots, club house and swimming pool — will be the primary response area of CPD.

The agreement also makes MUPD primary responders for five addresses in the heart of Greek Town, including St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave.; Children's House Montessori, 915 and 917 Tiger Ave.; Richmond Place Apartments, 915 Richmond Ave.; and Evans Scholars, 923 Tiger Ave.

The agreement involving Greek housing coincides with recommendations last year from a [40-member task force](#) focused on improving student safety and enhancing the fraternity and sorority experience at Mizzou.

Chief Doug Schwandt of the university police department, said his officers already have a close working relationship with the fraternities and sororities, providing student members with information about personal safety, property security, and educational programming and training.

“We appreciate all the work the Columbia Police Department has done over the years to patrol our sororities and fraternities and provide those student with law enforcement services,” Schwandt said. “We will continue to work with the city when the need arises.”

For years CPD has been responsible for policing the Greek houses that surround campus because the buildings are located on private property.

“Safety is the No. 1 priority at the University of Missouri,” Vice Chancellor of Operations Gary Ward said. “This change will provide our students living in sororities and fraternities a consistent law enforcement presence, whether it’s through educational programming, training or enforcement. We hope that by offering a steady presence, our officers will help provide those students with a safe supplement to their academic experience.”

Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga said the agreement clarifies and strengthens the educational community policing model that is a hallmark of MUPD.

“MUPD officers already serve as community police liaisons for chapter houses and provide a variety of training on campus safety and policies to promote a positive and educational environment,” he said. “MUPD also works closely with multiple university departments that support student health and well-being. It makes sense that the officers who are policing Greek chapter houses are also the same individuals who are providing education and support to our students.”

Matt Eblen, a current MU student and president of Intrafraternity Council, said putting MU police in charge of law enforcement services to all Greek houses is a step towards building a stronger Greek community.

“This change has been something the IFC community has been working toward during the past year,” he said. “We are glad to see this progress which will allow MUPD and CPD to serve both the fraternity and sorority community and the greater Columbia community.”