

MEMORANDUM
January 16, 2008

To: Diane Stoddard

From: W. Ronald Olin, Chief of Police

Ref.: Oread Neighborhood Questions

The Lawrence Police Department assigns resources based upon calls-for-service, times of occurrence, locations of occurrence, and time of year. The Crime Analysis Unit studies police activity throughout the City of Lawrence. These zones and the statistical information in each zone may be viewed at our website (lawrencepolice.org, and then click on "Crime Statistics"). On special occasions such as major celebrations, athletic events, parades, and other major gatherings, we may focus specific resources to the event. This is the case during football games at the University of Kansas. Three questions were posed of the department in this regard. Could we enhance our presence in the Oread Neighborhood? Is the Kansas University Police Department available to assist us? Have we disbanded the Neighborhood Resource Officers Unit? I will address each separately.

It is very difficult to increase police presence in a neighborhood because officers go where the calls dictate their response. One of the most important concepts in maintaining a community focused policing model is to have enough police personnel not only to respond to E911 calls, but also to engage in non-confrontational citizen interactions. Police presence in and around the football stadium during football games may be enhanced but is usually based upon the time the game is played. On those occasions when we can readjust our patrol schedules, for example with a game occurring at 1300 or 1330 hours, we can adjust shift change to provide two overlapping shifts working in the City of Lawrence. On those occasions when we have games at either 11:00 or 18:00 hours, the games are handled by only one shift. Typically, a shift is comprised of 20 to 24 officers. The department focuses specific attention to traffic, parking, crowd control, minors consuming alcohol, disturbances, and public consumption. These offenses are occurring throughout the City on game days and are not restricted to the Oread Neighborhood. The department does not have ways to enhance our presence in any specific neighborhood without overtime or an expanded police agency. Even with a complaint of on-going illegal activities, our response might not be at levels desired by citizens because of the number of officers available at any given time.

The Kansas University Police Department works very closely with the Lawrence Police Department. During major events, such as athletic events, we work to handle calls as they are reported. So does KUPD only on a different scale. The authorized strength of KUPD including supervisors is 27 sworn

personnel. On game days, all KU personnel are assigned to tasks on campus. While an occasional KU police patrol may go through an adjacent neighborhood, KU officers normally do not patrol in the City. Additionally, a new rule enacted in 2007 designates nearly every university parking lot as a tail gating area. This rule has had the effect of refocusing the resources of the KU police department on campus.

We received word in November 2007 that a rumor had arisen concerning the Lawrence Police Department disbanding the Neighborhood Resource Officers. Officers attended the Oread Neighborhood Association meeting to dispute this rumor and to reassure members that the NROs were still actively at work. The officers identified the individual responsible for the misunderstanding and discussed how the department is currently configured.

Please let me know if I may provide additional information.

W. Ronald Olin
Chief of Police