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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
Medical Center accelerates efforts to combat campus crime

In response to a recent increase in crime, which apparently mirrors a citywide increase in street crime, the Boston University administration arranged last week to implement an immediate and continuing presence of the Boston University Police Department at the Medical Campus. Boston University Police officers will patrol the streets surrounding the Boston University Medical Center. In addition, efforts have been accelerated to bolster overall security measures within Medical Campus buildings and Medical Center parking areas.

While Medical Center buildings themselves are generally secure, a number of serious incidents on public streets directly adjacent to the Medical Center are cause for concern and immediate response. An increase in crime that began in November includes a number of assaults; two of these assaults involved a gun or a knife. These incidents occurred on Albany, East Concord and East Newton Streets and Harrison Avenue.

To increase the security on the surrounding streets, the Medical Campus is working closely with the University Hospital. The officers of the Boston University Police Department have full police powers, including the power to arrest, book and prosecute to the full extent of the law. Clearly marked Boston University police cruisers with armed officers are now patrolling the perimeter control points of the Medical Center area.

The following measures, which include those implemented in the past year and a half, are expected to further improve security:

- The close working relationship between the Boston University Police Department and Medical Campus Security has been strengthened; similarly, coordination with the University Hospital, Boston City Hospital and the Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center has been improved;
- Medical Campus Security has established a 24-hour dispatch center;
- A state-of-the-art communications system has been installed, allowing security officers and Boston University police officers to remain in contact with central dispatch at all times;
- Emergency call boxes have been installed in Lot C and are expected to be operational shortly;
- The escort service provided by the University Hospital for all members of the Medical Center community has been strengthened through back-up assistance from Campus Security;
- Lighting has been increased in Lot C and additional lighting is being installed on Albany, East Concord and East Newton Streets and Harrison Avenue;
- The Medical Campus has hired Richard Natoli, a security professional with significant experience, as director of Medical Campus Security;
- A Medical Campus security officer training program has been implemented, including Academy training for all officers, safety training, Emergency Medical Technician training, and a composite-sketch program to assist in the identification of perpetrators.

In addition, these steps are being taken to secure Medical Campus buildings:

- The School of Medicine Instructional (I) Building lobby will be secured with the presence of a security officer and an ID-checking policy, beginning Feb. 5;
- The electronic access control system recently installed at 801 Albany Street is being expanded to include the perimeter control points of the Conte Medical Research Center (K Building);
- The receiving area off Harrison Avenue is being secured with an electronic gate and will be monitored and controlled, via camera, from the Security Office;
- A crime-prevention program is being implemented by Medical Campus Security.

School of Medicine Dean Aram Chobanian, M.D., Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry Dean Spencer N. Frankl, D.D.S., the University Hospital President J. Scott Abercrombie, M.D., and Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdhul, M.D., are looking to all members of the Medical Center community to encourage, embrace and cooperate with all efforts to tighten Medical Campus security.

SPECIAL EDITION

Medical Center accelerates efforts to combat campus crime

To report a crime in progress, call Campus Security’s new EMERGENCY number, x5060. To report an incident after the fact, call x4568.

Safety tips

Director of Security Richard Natoli offers the following suggestions for the protection of yourself and your property:

- Walk with someone, whenever possible;
- Avoid isolated areas and stay near streetlights when walking;
- Park in well-lit areas; parking lots are often safer than streets;
- Avoid shortcuts, such as alleyways or parks, even if it is less convenient;
- Be aware—look around you—avoid the element of surprise;
- Hold purses securely;
- Don’t carry heavy bags—avoid the chance of being immobilized;
- Carry wallets in front pockets;
- Don’t flaunt expensive jewelry;
- Keep doors locked when you leave your office or area;
- Use the shuttle or escort service;
- Check to see if anyone is in your car before you get in;
- Lock car doors when driving;
- Don’t pick up strangers;
- Notify Security if an incident occurs—there is nothing that can be done if incidents go unreported;
- Remember, your personal well-being is more important than your property.