

THE CHIEF'S Brief

AUGUST 2023



What we've been up to:

Welcome to this month's Chief's Brief. This is a monthly feature to let you, the Lion Community, know what has been happening on campus, where you can meet an officer, answer any questions you have about your University Police Department (UPD), and to offer a monthly safety tip.

To our Staff, Faculty, and students returning to campus, as well as to our new students, welcome to Southeastern, the home of the Lion Nation!

UPD has been hard at work over the summer. Officers have taken critical skills training in areas such as crisis management, de-escalation, interview techniques, and crime scene. UPD has also had some changes in our command structure, with longtime Police Lieutenant Patrick Gipson's retirement. Jason Silessi has been promoted to the position of Operations Lieutenant. Lt. Silessi will be working on events, community engagement, and overseeing investigations for the department.

UPD has also added some new equipment. We were able to purchase, through state surplus, two police motorcycles for campus. These motorcycles will be used for parades, escorts of our Lion athletic teams, and basic patrols. Three officers have now been certified to operate the motorcycles.

As your Chief, I want to remind all returning students, staff, and faculty, as well as those new to the Southeastern family, that I believe in transparency and openness. The officers and I are here to protect those we serve in an inclusive community where one knows they will be treated fairly and with respect. My door is always open if you have a concern, suggestion, complaint, or if you just want to stop by and say hi.

Upcoming UPD Events:

August 16 and 17 from 7:00 am to 11:00 am: Cool-off with the Cops – UPD will be handing out ice cold water between the Student Union and Library. Grab a bottle and ask questions, or just get to know one of your Southeastern Police Officers.

August 22 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Tabling for Red Zone/RAD – Stop by the Student Union Breezeway and get information about our upcoming RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) self-defense classes. UPD will be hosting 2 RAD classes this semester in September and November. Keep an eye on our announcements for registration.

August 23 from 7:00 am to 9:00 am: Coffee with a Cop – Stop by and grab a free cup of coffee and chat with our UPD officers in the Student Union Breezeway.

September 11 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm: The University Counseling Center is hosting "Talk Saves Lives", a mental health class on dealing with someone in crisis for faculty and staff in the Student Union Theatre. Future dates for student attendees will also be available in October.

We would love to speak with your group or organization and provide safety presentations, or just have a chat. Email us to get something scheduled. Contact Lt. Jason Silessi at 985-549-5329 or police@southeastern.edu.

Safety Tips:

I would like to introduce the Lion Safe App to our new community members and send a reminder to our returning students and staff about its availability. The Lion Safe App is free to all and puts the University's resources in your hand. The app includes items like a mobile blue light, virtual escort, friend walk, submit a tip, and chat with our dispatch. As we enter the peak of Hurricane Season, it is critical that you stay connected. You can download the Lion Safe App from the Apple or Google stores.

For our residential students, remember to secure your residence doors. Those with vehicles on campus, lock your doors and don't leave valuable items in plain sight. Make a list of the serial numbers from your valuable items in the event you have to file a police report.

For our Faculty and Staff, secure your office before you leave. Although UPD does secure campus buildings after hours, ensure that when working late that the building's outer doors secure behind you when leaving.

The more we work together to deter crime, the safer our campus and community becomes. As always, if you see something, say something! If you see suspicious persons or activity, call your University Police Department immediately at 985-549-2222. We are available 24-7/365. We are physically located on the 1st floor of Pride Hall.

Send any questions or comments to police@southeastern.edu.

We will see you around campus! LION UP!

Chief Beckner

Southeastern Louisiana University Police Department



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