THE CHIEF'S MAY 2022



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.

Congratulations to all of our Southeastern students, staff, and faculty who made the spring semester one that brought the campus back to life. As we approach Commencement on May 14th, we celebrate those who have achieved so much here at Southeastern. Whether it's the first generation graduate or students achieving their Master's or other postgraduate degrees, you have worked hard and now all that work pays off as we celebrate you on Saturday.

With Commencement comes the traffic. We ask you to take extra time to arrive, pay attention to the officers directing you to parking areas, and most of all, enjoy the day!

As the semester ends, many will take a break and enjoy some down time before returning in the fall. UPD will be working hard this summer getting ready for the new academic year. We are excited to introduce LION SAFE, a free app to all that puts the University's resources, such as University Counseling Center, Title IX, Health Center, Student Accessibility Services and the Lion Intervention Network (LINK), in the palm of your hand, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

Need to locate a blue light to get to the police fast but you are not near one? No worries! You have one with you at all times when on campus in the palm of your hand. That's right, your cell phone will be a mobile blue light.

Need a safety escort? You will now be able to request one virtually with UPD. UPD follows you through your location using the app.

Don't want to call UPD? You can also do a friend walk and they will be able to follow your progress. On both types of escorts, you can hit the panic button and UPD will respond to your location. The virtual blue light and virtual escort features only work when on or near campus.

Along with these features, there will be push notifications about events on campus, game day information for Lion football, ability to track the Lion Traxx shuttles, and notifications and links in the event of a hurricane or other emergency.

You may have questions like will UPD have access to my location all the time or store my number and get personal information? The answer to all these questions is NO. When using the app and the virtual blue light or virtual safety walk is activated, all we see is your location when you activate the request. Once you end the activation, that data is gone and we cannot reactivate it to track you again or gain your phone number. Your privacy is protected, as it should be.

With that said, I bet you're wondering, what do I have to do to get all this neat stuff?! Well, it's simple! Go to the Apple store or Google play store and download the LION SAFE app for Southeastern.

We will be putting out more information in the coming weeks with videos and taking any questions you have about the new LION SAFE application.

Upcoming UPD Events:

With the end of the school year, we are already planning for some new and exciting events for the fall. Keep an eye on our social media for these events!

Now, I would like to talk about an event that just took place that your University Police took part in, the Swamp Bowl. The University Police went 0-2 against the student teams. We lost with grace, and even though the championship trophy was never in our sight, we had a blast. It was good to see such a great turnout. We did win one match... even though it was unsanctioned. UPD was challenged by another team led by Assistant Vice President Litolff. We accepted, and the outcome went the way of UPD, so we "kind of" won a championship. We look forward to the rematch.

Safety Tips:

As you enjoy the summer break, remember to be aware of your surroundings, pay attention while on the roadways, and if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Be safe and we will see you in the fall.

If you see suspicious persons or activity, call your University Police Department immediately.

Remember, your University Police Department is located in Pride Hall and is open 24/7. You can reach us from any campus phone by dialing 2222 and from any cell phone or off-campus line by dialing 985-549-2222.

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

We will see you around campus. LION UP!

Chief Beckner

Southeastern Louisiana University Police Department

