

THE CHIEF'S Brief

AUGUST 2024



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 faculty, staff, and returning students, as well as to our new students: *Welcome to Southeastern, the home of the Lion Nation.*

UPD has experienced some pretty significant changes and additions over the summer. UPD is now housed under the Department of Public Safety. This Department includes Clery Compliance, Emergency Management, University Police, and Parking/Transportation Services. The creation of the Department of Public Safety was to create an organization that can better serve our Southeastern community in a more effective and efficient way and continue to play a role in our students' success. I am honored to lead this combined department and the staff that strive to make Southeastern better every day.

UPD has also added a new officer, K9 Julia, a 2-year-old German Shepherd. Julia is trained in explosives detection and is assigned to K9 Handler Sgt. Blanchard, who is now UPD's Community Engagement Coordinator. K9 Julia will be assisting Sgt. Blanchard at community engagement events and providing another layer of safety for our campus. I want to thank Dr. Wainwright and Dr. Summers for their support which allowed UPD to bring K9 Julia to our campus.

I also want to speak briefly about a new service offered by the University Counseling Center: ViaLink. This is a 24-hour crisis line that students can call and speak with a counselor in their time of need. ViaLink can be reached at 833-603-0008 or through the Lion Safe app under "UCC Crisis Line".

Upcoming UPD Events:

- August 21st and 22nd: From 8-11am, UPD will host "Cool off with Cops" in front of Sims Library. Officers will be handing out cold water and answering questions. Stop by and get to know one of your Southeastern Police Officers.
- August 28th: From 11am-2pm, UPD will participate in "Get Engaged Fest" in the Student Union Breezeway. Stop by and engage with us!
- September 3rd: From 10am-2pm, UPD will be tabling for Red Zone in the Student Union Breezeway. Stop by and learn what Red Zone is and how you can work with us on prevention!
- September 10th, 12th, 17th, and 19th: UPD will be hosting a RAD class. To register, visit: <https://linktr.ee/SoutheasternUPD>

The Office of Student Engagement will be kickin' off the semester during August with the Block Party, Silent Disco, and Mocktails. Follow their socials for more information or go to www.southeastern.edu/mane

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. Silessi or Sgt. Blanchard at 985-549-2222 or police@selu.edu.



K9 JULIA
Explosives Detection

Safety Tips:

I would like to remind returning students and introduce to our new students and community members about the availability of Southeastern's Lion Safe app. The Lion Safe app is free to all and puts the University's resources at your fingertips. Items like a mobile blue light, virtual escort, friend walk, submit a tip, and chat with our dispatch are all readily available for use. You can download the Lion Safe App from the Apple or Google stores for free.

As your Chief, I want to remind all the returning students, staff, and faculty and 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.

The more we work together to deter crime the safer our campus and community becomes.

If you have any questions, please reach out to UPD and an officer will be there to help.

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 Department of Public Safety

