

Subject: U of M Public Safety Concerns - Request for immediate action follow up - Brian Peck

Dear Mr. Peck:

Thank you again for contacting the Board of Regents with your concerns. I understand that yesterday you spoke with UMPD Chief Matt Clark. Chief Clark is an important part of our community safety, but there are additional efforts underway to ensure that we continue to prioritize the safety of our students, staff, and faculty on the Twin Cities campus.

As you know, the problem property at 1721 has been boarded up, the University has been providing 24 hour a day security to ensure no one enters the property, and that we have continued to be in touch with the board of the Student Co-op to express our concerns. The University will, as Senior Vice President Myron Frans noted in his presentation to the Board of Regents, continue to oppose any attempt by them to regain their license to offer housing. That their web page says they “lost control” of their house speaks volumes as to the lack of confidence we have in them moving forward.

The administration has authorized extensive overtime for our department for additional patrols both on campus and off campus. They plan to continue that overtime through the summer months.

The University’s Department of Public Safety is also exploring the possibility of adding more uniformed security officers on campus who can handle lower level engagements, freeing up sworn officers for higher value patrols and situations. More to come on this but the University is doing everything possible, in the short-term, to increase the presence of uniformed officers in the areas that need them around and on campus.

Finally, while I know you directed your email at a much wider audience than just the University, I do want you to know that we coordinate directly with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Department on everything from patrols and incidence responses to additional street lighting and graffiti removal. We recognize the importance of a unified approach and are committed to that effort.

Thank you for your email. I have asked the University to increase the frequency of their updates to both our community and parents to keep you informed. There is much in the works, with more to come, as we collectively seek the safety and security of our University community, both on and off campus.

Sincerely,

Ken Powell
Chair, Board of Regents