



1990

## 1990 Notes from March Meeting of the CFW Safety Committee

Commission for Women

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Notes from the 3/9/90 Meeting of the CFW Safety Committee

Attendees: Jerry Askew, Ed Bennett, Suzanne Kurth, Bert Sams, Wylene Vrba, and Ed Yovella

Mr. Sams gave an update of issues under investigation by the university-wide safety committee. He reported that the safety committee met three times during the fall semester for the purpose of reviewing the progress on the recommendations of the task force. For most of the issues in that report actions have been taken or are planned. An interim report of those actions has been forwarded to Vice Chancellor Scheurer. Brief summaries follow.

**Lighting** is a continuing concern. The city engineering department is in the process of replacing street lamps with ones which provide better illumination. The safety committee has requested a copy of the city's plan for this project.

**Ft. Sanders/Lake Terrace area:** John Parker met with the city engineer to discuss improvements in these areas, focusing on lighting and area cleanup. The problem is that most of the area is private property, and the cleanup will be the responsibility of the owner.

**Walking beats:** Mr. Sams and Chief Yovella were invited to meet with the Cumberland Avenue Merchants Association. This meeting resulted in reinstating the police officer walking beats on an as-needed basis. Hopefully increased visibility of the officers will aid in reducing alcohol-related incidences and crimes.

**Crime prevention:** The city has formed a crime prevention unit which meets with citizens living in the areas of high crime/safety problems.

**Safety publications:** The safety committee is looking at preparing a comprehensive campus safety publication. The primary obstacle is funding. The crime statistics report has been updated and will be distributed to the Commission.

**Blue light phones:** Requests for additional phones are being reviewed, as well as current locations of phones. It was pointed out that if one must walk in an unlighted area to reach one of these units, it defeats the purpose of the phone.

**Safety programs:** while a number of safety programs exist on campus, it is felt that more need to be developed, and that they would be more effective if coordinated campus-wide.

**Escort van:** Should the van service be on demand or should regular routes be established? The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the escort services. Chief Yovella said that the escort service was originally a walking escort which was started prior to the 1982 World's Fair. Its purpose was to escort primarily students between the various points on campus during the nighttime hours. Eventually a van was started and a route was set up. Now there are two vans which operate on-call. Recently a second officer was

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added to handle the calls coming into the police, due to increased use of the van service. It was pointed out that at no time has Security received additional funding for this service, but rather, reallocations have taken place within the department.

Dr. Kurth pointed out the value of this service to individuals moving about the campus at night, especially women traveling alone, and commended Chief Yovella on the apparent success of the project and his response to the needs. She inquired about adding a trolley route that could also go to the off-campus sites such as rental properties and Ft. Sanders, where many of our students live, and charging the riders for the service. Mr. Bennett supported the trolley concept, pointing out that under the present budgeting arrangement it was impossible.

Members of the CFW Safety Committee then suggested that obviously the need to expand the services exists; and that for Security to continue to absorb the costs as they are now, much less expanding the service, seemed inappropriate. The Committee suggested that this should be a budgeted item, and asked for suggestions on how to proceed.

Chief Yovella agreed to get the committee statistics on the van use and cost information for the service as it now stands. A survey of students about use of the service was also suggested, and would perhaps be a good way to determine the needs of the campus community. Also discussed was the model of the fraternities having two people on call on week-ends to pick up members who need a ride, and the problems of relying on volunteers for an escort service.

The two UT, Chattanooga safety booklets were passed on to Mr. Sams to include with all others that are being reviewed by the group looking to publish a comprehensive safety publication.

W. A. Vrba  
March 21, 1990

Distribution: CFW Members  
Ed Bennett  
Ed Yovella  
Bert Sams

The members of the CFW Safety Committee are Jerry Askew, Suzanne Kurth, Thura Mack, Jan Scott-Bey, and Wylene Vrba.