

GAINESVILLE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**INTER-OFFICE  
COMMUNICATION**

**#060255**

To: Chief Norman Botsford Date: Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

From: Captain Ed Van Winkle Captain Ed Book  
Captain Willie Washington Community Resource Coordinator Tony Jones

**Subject: Underage Drinking Public Safety Referral #060255**

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Gainesville Police have placed a priority on underage drinking education, prevention, and enforcement programs. These efforts have been geared to reduce, for example, fights, overdoses, DUI, and large and unruly neighborhood parties and are comprehensive. Overview of previous, current, and future proposed programs follows.

Prevention and education

- GPD has a full time school resource program with an important objective being year-round youth education and prevention education in line with Life Management Skills curriculums. SRO's are assigned to Gainesville High, Horizon / New Pathways, and A. Quinn Jones.
- One overlapping full time Officer "Friendly" provides prepared alcohol and substance abuse curriculum programs throughout City schools.
- Reichert House staff provide after school intensive prevention to approximately 80 male youth ages 8-17. Drug screenings are also done.
- GPD has provided Party Patrol grant funds in the past to place youth produced ads in high school yearbooks related to alcohol laws and GPD enforcement & plans. More similar ads are planned. The Party Patrol was Byrne Grant funded the maximum allowable three (3) years from 2002-2004 but is now budgeted via the City general fund.
- Paid media print messaging has been placed in the Independent Florida Alligator. Joint ads have also been paid for by the UF Campus Alcohol and Drug Resource Center.
- Brochures regarding party patrol, noise violations, nuisance abatement, and rentals are provided at many locations throughout town, on calls for service, in the GPD front lobby, hotels, apartment complexes, and to college student groups during Fall orientation.
- Website information is also provided at [www.gainesvillepd.org](http://www.gainesvillepd.org) as well as links to many organizations with similar goals.
- Media information has been and continues to be extensive. GPD internally has featured alcohol-themed segments on many previous "Police Beat" episodes & weekly radio show. Further, media coverage has been widespread with many articles in both The Gainesville Sun, Independent Florida Alligator, other local periodicals, and numerous radio shows covering primarily Party Patrol over the preceding years.
- Many Gainesville citizens each year are invited to ride along with the GPD Party Patrol. This program will continue this Fall.
- Regular special events with GPD participation or coordination focusing on young adult safety and education include: alcohol awareness fairs every Fall at the Santa Fe Community College, bar employee education and underage recognition training for Downtown and Midtown beverage establishments, and UF fraternity requested alcohol breath testing on the Downtown Plaza during events such as Gator Stomping.
- GPD has members on the Partners in Prevention of Substance Abuse Committee (PIPSA), Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Gainesville Responsible Hospitality

Partnership, and the Alachua County Traffic Safety Team. All of these organizations have goals consistent with developing long term strategies for substance abuse prevention.

- GPD members all participate in regular meetings with numerous neighborhood associations, crime watch, and business watch organizations such as the Downtown Owners and Tenants (GDOT) and SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street Business Owners.
- Upcoming Fall initiatives and events being planned include participation in the Insite Back to School Fair, UF Off campus student bar-b-q, and Responsible Hospitality Beverage employees training all scheduled for late August. Additionally, the Community Resource Division is planning to partner with a local radio station to develop a newsletter aimed at youth with coupons & messages promoting healthy behaviors.

### Enforcement & Arrest Statistics

	<u>Poss of alcohol</u> <u>under 21 years old</u>	<u>DUI</u>	
2004	699	229	arrests
2005	1151	312	arrests
2006	402	148	arrests 1/1 thru 6/30

- Enforcement of underage drinking typically has been greatest in the Downtown district, Midtown (roughly 800-1800 West University Avenue) area, and in neighborhoods via Party Patrol and UF Game Day Neighborhood Detail efforts. The vast majority of underage drinking arrests are for persons between the ages of 18 and 21 years of age. Most arrests involve issuance of notices to appear as opposed to transport to jail. Underage drinking enforcement is communicated throughout the agency and is a priority for both patrol and special detail officers.
- Statistics above include regular bar "ID" checks, occasional operations involving details where undercover operatives attempt alcohol buys at convenience stores and bars, and general enforcement. The majority of arrests are made by the largely grant funded Downtown Unit comprised of a sergeant and 4 other sworn members.
- Traffic Safety Team and patrol members also enforce underage drinking via DUI checkpoints, regular DUI enforcement, and .02 violations. The Traffic Safety Team is comprised of 10 sworn members. Large scale and often multi-agency DUI checkpoints are typically utilized on holidays such as New Year's and average 3-5 details per year.
- DUI enforcement is conducted year round on all shifts by all patrol officers and enhanced with 29 officers assigned patrol cars with in-car cameras to record the investigation. Further, a grant funded DUI specialist position provides for one officer full time to conduct DUI enforcement. In 2005, this officer was one of only 30 law enforcement officers statewide to make over 100 DUI arrests in that year and received state commendation.
- .02 violations are civil traffic infractions issued to drivers under 21 years of age who display any indication of alcoholic beverage consumption. GPD has 12 portable breath test operators (PBT's). While numbers of citations issued are small with 9 written in 2006 to date, most violations are issued during night time hours.
- Party Patrol has been funded since 2005 via the City general fund budget. The annual budget of approximately \$135,000 provides for additional overtime officers during primarily weekend nights with special emphasis on neighborhood parties, loud car stereos, and alcohol violations. The Party Patrol has been one of the most successful and citizen supported GPD programs over the preceding years. A meeting was held Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> with all Party Patrol supervisors to reemphasize primary Fall enforcement objectives to include underage drinking efforts and landlord follow through on problem locations.