

# Police Oversight Committee

**October 2016**

Committee members present:

Fr Rob Hagan, chair

David Tedjeske, Public Safety, ex officio

Michael Zubey, General Counsel's office, ex officio

Ariel Thompson, student representative

John Cosenza, alumni representative

Dr Brigid Dwyer, staff representative

Dr Crystal Lucky, Dr Catherine Warrick, Dr Tim Horner (faculty representatives)

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** the correct contact information for the oversight committee is [oversightcommittee@villanova.edu](mailto:oversightcommittee@villanova.edu). Members of the campus community are encouraged to use this email address, which goes to all committee members, to raise any questions or concerns about public safety and police matters at Villanova.

The meeting began with an update on campus public safety and police activity from David Tedjeske. Mr Tedjeske reported that eight individuals have been criminally charged by Villanova police since August 1, and that none of these individuals was a Villanova student. Offenses were alcohol-related, theft, and trespass. Mr Tedjeske also reported that student alcohol offenses are on a downward trajectory over the last few years, as measured both by Public Safety interventions and RA referrals to the Dean of Students.

Mr Tedjeske also reported liaison activity between the Villanova police department and other agencies, including the FBI, on cases involving a text threat (which was misdirected to a Villanova student and posed no risk to campus safety) and the use of a cell phone to record someone in a bathroom.

Villanova police and public safety activities have included the deployment of a new phone app, NOVASafe, which allows users to contact Villanova police by text and has a tracking function that users can enable to let their friends see their location and movements. The police have also met with student groups, offered two self-defense classes, and will be offering building tours and ride-alongs to Villanovans during the coming months.

One complaint was filed about the conduct of an officer. A student engaged in voter registration on campus was told to stop collecting information because she did not have the appropriate permissions. She did not comply and the officer took her clipboard away. The student complained to Public Safety that the officer's conduct was rude.

All complaints about the Public Safety department and officers are currently handled within the Public Safety department and result in a "finding of fact" letter which is sent to both parties. There is no further appeal for complaints beyond Mr Tedjeske as the head of the department, and the committee discussed ways of expanding or improving this process.

Some committee members advocated mediation between complainants and officers in cases where complaints have been filed, but it is not clear how such mediation would affect ongoing

complaints and whether it would be desirable or effective in general. The general counsel's office representative suggested that officers who are the subject of outstanding complaints could not be permitted to participate in such mediation while complaints against them are unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Warrick

---