



Resolution for the Regulation of Public Safety Rounds in Residence Halls
Resolution 20-21-02

Whereas : The University of San Francisco has three values which include: cura personalis, or care for the whole person, people for others, and commitment to diversity; and

Whereas : caring for the whole person includes making sure their experience at the University is optimal and ‘people for others’ includes making sure the needs of a community are met and ‘commitment to diversity’ includes honoring and being cognizant of the history of every community; and

Whereas: the University aims to embody these values by catering to all student populations including, but not limited to, the Black-identifying student population through the creation of the Marshall-Riley Living-Learning community—colloquially referred to as the Black Living Learning Community (BLLC)—which provides “an opportunity for deeper, more meaningful, and connected learning in a shared residential and academic environment”; and

Whereas: the University works to be a campus that offers students a socially responsible community where students can feel comfortable in different spaces across campus, especially in spaces like living learning communities that are created for members of a community to share a residential experience, and rely on the university to ensure that this community is maintained; and

Whereas: in a survey collected by the Resident Advisor of the 2019-2020 Marshall-Riley Living-Learning community residents were given an opportunity to document experiences with and/or feelings about Public Safety officers, where they expressed feelings of discomfort and unease with respect to the officers’ presence, one student shared,

“The university's motto "Change the World from Here" is one I hold near to my heart. I study in the lounge with friends, gather in the hall for conversations, and try to find community with those around me. I am currently a [student] and my dream is to pursue medical school and enter the healthcare field. Although, with campus police patrolling my dorm floor and building frequently, I feel unable to confidently operate about the building and feel threatened and uneasy. Furthermore, due to frequent campus police visits, I do not feel empowered to complete even daily tasks around campus. And my dream of satisfying the university's mission statement feels more like a lofty goal, rather than a realistic option

And

I had felt so excited to attend USF, and a key factor that played into that excitement was the BLLC. I recognize how long it took for this beautiful and necessary living community to be created. It took numerous years to get this idea approved, but now I feel that all that hard work in the creation is slowly diminished through the constant surveillance of campus police. I expected to feel safe,



included, and respected in the USF community because of this university's mission and values of diversity and inclusivity. However, the presence of campus police officers on the BLLC floor is hindering my experiences with this university that advocates for social justice and equality. I feel personally targeted because I did not realize that joining the BLLC would cause me to be racially targeted by campus police officers. I did not sign up for the BLLC knowing that circumstance, and these circumstances are negatively affecting my experiences within living in the BLLC. I signed up for the Black Living Learning Community so that I could live in a space where I felt included, safe, and connect with other students that racially identify with me. I am feeling less and less safe living in the BLLC (one of the reasons why I joined in the first place) because of the police officers that are routinely on my floor usually at night for no apparent reason. I feel that these police officers contradict USF's mission because they are promoting a racism-present environment through specifically roaming on my floor everyday or every other day. Given the present culture of police brutality, I did not expect to be around that sort of hostile environment at USF.”

Whereas: the residents of this community are Black-identifying students and are bonded together through their shared history and sociopolitical factors that have established generational trauma within the Black diaspora; and

Whereas: the University aims to change the world from here by recognizing unfortunate norms and practicing active listening with continuous cognizance of the current political climate; and

Whereas: interactions with law enforcement or similar authorities have been extremely traumatic not only historically but also in today's political climate and the Department of Public Safety upholds an authoritative mission similar to that of the large police system; and

Whereas : The University of San Francisco Department of Public Safety (DPS) acknowledges the historic role that law enforcement institutions in America have played in the perpetuation of explicit and implicit racism that has denied Black people fair and impartial criminal justice; and

Whereas: the Department of Public Safety implemented Community Rounds a policy where Public Safety officers went into dorm halls to bond with residents and start to establish forms or community, while also confirming the accessibility of emergency exists or perform other duties; and

Whereas: the mission of the Community Rounds created adverse effects with residents not feeling a sense of community but instead surveilled and anxious within their living space; and

Whereas: Resident Advisors not being informed about the Community Rounds Policy, when the rounds would occur, and when the officers were in the building they extended the discomfort to the other members of the residential population; and*

Whereas: the Senior Director of Student Housing and Residential Education has stated,



“We have included in our desk training to have desk staff inquire with Public Safety staff about the nature of their presence in the building. Public Safety will respond if/as possible depending on the nature of the situation they are responding to,”

Whereas: instances where Public Safety officers did not communicate the nature of their entrance to desk staff leaving Resident Advisors and other members of the residential population with no information regarding Public Safety’s presence; and

Whereas: causing the Resident Advisor of the 2019-2020 Marshall-Riley Living-Learning community to be hyper aware of activity on Toler 5 and the presence of the officers, find an effective and efficient way to communicate with residents of the living learning community, as well as ensure that the experiences of the students was optimal; and

Whereas: SHaRE aims to create diverse, safe, equitable, and inclusive communities that promote academic achievement and effective communication with student employees is essential to accomplishing this; and

Whereas: this method of communication has occurred within emergency situations as well not following the chain of communication policy producing the similar feelings of anxiety and discomfort within the residential community; and

Whereas: ASUSF Senate has committed itself to supporting the Black community through the allocation of funds to both the Black Student Union and the Bay Area Anti-Repression Fund and through continued engagement in community dialogue; and

Whereas: the recent protests surrounding the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement have further exemplified the systemic racism present within policing forces, particularly towards the Black community; therefore be it

Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco in its role as the sole representative body of all undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, that the following be enacted:

Resolved that The University of San Francisco Department of Public Safety will continue to partner and problem solve with the Black Student Union (BSU). This will include but is not limited to the review of current DPS policies and protocol, as well as the creation of new policies and protocols. Examples of this partnership includes changes in policy that limit officers visits to residence hall floors to calls for service, and emergencies only, as well as the revision of the DPS Crime Bulletin criteria in which race and gender are no longer used as descriptors. Race and gender can only be used under strict circumstance when there is a continued viable threat to the community, and when there is a photo, sketch, or characteristics that clearly differentiate the suspect from the general community; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that The University of San Francisco Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the



Progressive Policing Community Advisory Board Committee, will conduct listening circles in which community members and officers will participate. The goal is to clearly identify training needs in which our officers and ultimately our growing community of color could benefit. Trust is critical, and we have a long way to go to repair a historically significant lack of trust in law enforcement; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that The University of San Francisco Department of Public Safety will cease the practice of community rounds and use the aforementioned listening circles as a guide for future methods of connection with students; furthermore, be it

Resolved: The dispatch office of the Department of Public Safety will communicate directly with the residential desk staff to explain the nature of Public Safety's presence in the dorm hall allowing for information to be communicated to other residential staff.

Submitted by:

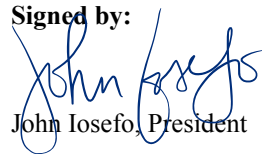
Rebecca Muñoz, Senior Class Representative
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Supported by:

USFCA Black Student Union (BSU)
Shannon Gary, *Associate Vice Provost, Student Life & Dean of Students*
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Passed the Senate on: September 16, 2020

Signed by:



John Iosefo, President