A Message from Xavier Police Chief Joe Milek

Dear Parents,

As Xavier University Police Chief, my primary focus is on the safety of our students. My officers and I encourage them to reach out when they need help of any kind. In most cases, we easily resolve issues that can sometimes seem overwhelming to young people with limited experience living on their own. Like their professors, part of our job is to teach. Our lessons are focused on how to help them stay safe both on and off campus.

The beginning of fall semester was marked by some uncharacteristic incidents of crime in the neighborhoods around our campus. One involved a Xavier student, who is fortunately ok, but experienced a scare that will not soon be forgotten. Cincinnati and Norwood Police were quick to let us know that the incidents did not specifically target Xavier students. Nevertheless, it was key for me to make sure students knew what was happening, where it was happening and what they could do to help us keep them safe.

So, what did we, Xavier Police, do? We increased officers and resources in the areas where the incidents happened, as did members of the Cincinnati and Norwood police departments. Together, we increased visibility through resources such as portable lighting and advanced monitoring technologies. These efforts appear to have been successful in detecting and deterring crime and will continue for the foreseeable future.

What did we ask students to do? Number one, we encouraged, and continue to encourage, all members of the Xavier community to reach out to Xavier, Cincinnati or Norwood police. Here’s how we put it: “See Something, Say Something.” Sounds simple, but speaking up and reaching out to law enforcement is the first step to prevent crime. In addition, we sent several special communication notices to students offering proactive tips including:

- “Head Up, Phone down”; a campaign we launched to remind students that they are vulnerable when they’re focused on their phone and not their surroundings
- Use safety escorts, available on campus 24/7
- Use the blue campus emergency phones 24/7 if you need assistance
- Call 911 to report any suspicious activity off campus
- Call 745-1000 to report any suspicious activity on campus
- Pay attention to Xavier Police communications

Xavier Police issue incident and emergency communication to all students. Each situation is different. The mode and method of communication sent is based on the potential impact on our students. An XU Alert Me message, for example, is sent to inform our community of situations that pose imminent danger. General information and crime updates are regularly posted on the Xavier Safety website.

The Xavier campus and the neighborhoods that surround us are our home. It’s important that all of us, Xavier Police, Xavier faculty and staff and Xavier students, work together to keep our
home safe. Please help us by encouraging your student to be mindful and aware. As parents of Xavier students, you are part of our Xavier family. Don’t hesitate to call me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest and attention to this important situation.

Joe Milek
Xavier University Police Chief