



*A Message to the Columbia Community
from Vice President for Public Safety
James F. McShane*

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Dear Member of the Columbia Community,

Yesterday the NYPD and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office arrested and indicted over 100 suspected gang members in West Harlem in one of the largest gang arrests in New York City history. These indictments make our city and community safer and come as a result of a long-term collaboration between local law enforcement agencies.

Following these arrests, we are actively supporting an enhanced police presence in West Harlem and increasing our public safety personnel and patrols in and around Columbia buildings in Manhattanville. We will continue to do everything possible to keep making our campus community even safer.

Among the resources currently deployed are the following:

- **Enhanced NYPD patrols**, both uniformed and plain clothes, along the 125th Street/Broadway corridor;
- **Continued deployment of high visibility fixed posts**, including the 'Sky Watch' police booth on 125th Street, as well as marked vehicles, with turret lights operating, stationed at key locations throughout the area; and
- **Additional motorized patrols by Public Safety** in the Manhattanville areas during the overnight hours.

Additionally, I am writing to remind you that the Department of Public Safety continues to offer many programs and services to help ensure personal safety, including:

- **Morningside/Manhattanville Evening Shuttle Bus Service**: that provides scheduled service during the evening hours, between 6:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. This service ranges as far south as 103rd Street and as far north as 135th Street.
- **Uniformed Public Safety personnel** stationed at fixed locations throughout our campuses. These include guard booths at the main gates on 116th Street at both Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, which are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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These posts are supplemented by foot and motorized patrols that provide a highly visible presence in the areas around our campuses. We also work very closely with neighboring institutions including Barnard College, Bank Street College, Jewish Theological Seminary, Manhattan School of Music, Teachers College, and Union Theological Seminary. We coordinate our patrols with these partners to provide for an even greater uniformed presence in the community.

- **Two 24-hour emergency operations centers**, one on each campus. On the Morningside/Manhattanville campus, we can be reached in an emergency by dialing **212-854-5555** on any phone. For routine business, you can reach us by calling 212-854-2797. At the Medical Center, the emergency response number is **212-305-7979**.
- **An extensive system of video cameras** used to investigate crimes.
- **Emergency call boxes** that connect directly to our 24-hour operations centers in strategic locations across both campuses and surrounding areas.
- **A text messaging system** to transmit emergency messages to portable devices such as cell phones.
- **An escort service where trained personnel will accompany you to your door** any time from 7:00 P.M. until 3:00 A.M. This service is available between 108th Street and 122nd Street. At the Medical Center, escorts are available between W. 165th Street and W. 181st Street. For either of these services, call 212-854-SAFE on the Morningside/Manhattanville Campus and 212-305-8100 at the Medical Center.
- **Operation “Safe Haven”** provides more than 140 storefront locations across all three campuses where people who may feel threatened can take refuge. The merchants will call Public Safety and/or the N.Y.P.D. who will respond immediately. Look for the “Red Lion” sticker in the window of the store.

My team and I are here to keep you safe and sound. We look forward to working together with all of you, not only to keep our environment as safe as it is, but also to make our students, faculty and staff - and their families - feel safe.

I encourage anyone with a concern to contact Public Safety at the numbers provided above, day or night. For more information about safety concerns, please also see the Public Safety Annual Security and Fire Safety Report which is available online at the Public Safety website, <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/>.

Remember: If you see something, say something!