



Rhodes College

Rhodes Community,

I am writing to share an update regarding campus safety and some measures being implemented for this academic year. There is nothing more important than supporting the safety and wellbeing of our community. Let me begin by assuring you that the Rhodes campus itself is extremely safe, and we have continued our efforts to tighten our on-campus security even further. The action items we have undertaken on campus include:

- We have increased our on-campus safety patrols, particularly in the evening and overnight hours, and added additional, clearly marked Campus Safety vehicles. These patrols are available to provide safety escorts to West Campus or other locations on campus by calling 901-843-3880.
- We have completed the installation of all eight cameras in Flock License Plate Camera System, which is an integrated license plate reading system, and the system is fully operational. These cameras can view cars both entering campus and cars traveling on the perimeter streets. Stolen tag data is seamlessly shared with the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.
- We have increased the number and qualifications of our campus safety dispatchers and installed a computer-aided dispatch system. These enhancements will improve our efficiency in responding to calls and equip our Campus Safety officers with more complete and accurate information to address the situations they encounter.
- We have installed a new camera system to focus on residence hall entries and exits that will alert campus dispatch if a door has been propped open so Campus Safety can respond promptly to ensure the door is closed and locked. The same system will also be utilized at our campus pedestrian gates and installation will be complete by August 18. We ask our entire community to assist us by not propping gates or doors open and immediately closing any open gates or doors you may encounter.
- New light poles with LED light fixtures were installed in the parking lots on West Campus this summer which has significantly improved the lighting in these lots.
- We have provided all our Campus Safety officers with anti-bias training to enhance our efforts to make sure every member of our community feels welcome, valued, and included.
- We have created a new and updated campus safety website that you can access at this link: <https://rhodes.edu/campus-safety>.

We know many of you may be concerned about crimes off campus. Memphis, like virtually every American city, is working to address the ongoing problem of crime. We are undertaking the following steps in this regard:

- Beginning August 18, we will be contracting with a private security firm to patrol the immediate neighborhoods around campus for the duration of the academic year. Clarion Security will be patrolling this off-campus area from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., seven days a week. Initially, the officers will be unarmed, with Clarion moving to armed guard service on September 5.

- We are hosting mandatory safety briefings for our off-campus students August 22 and August 23 at 6 p.m. in McNeill Concert Hall to convey some practical, but important, steps that can be taken to reduce chances of becoming a crime victim. Students may choose either one of these meetings to attend. Faculty and staff are also invited to attend.
- We will be reinstalling our SkyCop camera system on University Street as soon as we receive a unit from SkyCop. We expect to receive it no later than the end of next week. Footage from the SkyCop camera flows to the Memphis Police Department in real time.
- We will continue to work closely with the Memphis Police Department and the Midtown Safety Alliance in the months to come to increase Memphis Police Department patrols and take other action to reduce incidents of crime in the Midtown neighborhoods.
- We have been meeting with landlords in the area about the importance of enhancing neighborhood safety by implementing additional security measures, such as increasing the lighting around the property, as well as installing alarm systems and cameras like Ring doorbells.

Campus safety impacts all of us, and benefits from our collective actions and insights. I will be forming a working group of faculty, staff, and students to continue discussion of possible campus safety enhancements, including partnerships with neighboring institutions. I look forward to working in collaboration with you on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Collins
President
Rhodes College

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