

Approved by the Regents
October 19, 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Division of Public Safety and Security

Action Requested: Creation of Division of Public Safety and Security and appointment of Interim Executive Director of Public Safety and Security, Ann Arbor campus

Ensuring the safety and security of every member of our University community is of utmost importance and a fundamental expectation. The current structure of the University's public safety and security services consists of a number of disparate, unrelated units with no central reporting structure. This makes the coordination of responsibilities among security units more challenging, and has contributed to significant cultural and trust issues that impede the most effective working relationships among units. We believe unifying the units, and establishing an executive director of public safety and security who reports directly to the president, will address the issues we have identified. To that end, I recommend creation of the Division of Public Safety and Security.

The new Division of Public Safety and Security ("DPSS") will encompass all security functions across the University, including those currently managed by the Department of Public Safety, UMHHC Security Services, Housing Security, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, and other campus-wide security functions. The new division will be led by an executive director of public safety and security, to be chosen through a national search which we will launch immediately. The University's chief of police and other security leadership will report directly to the executive director of DPSS, and the executive director will report directly to the president of the University.

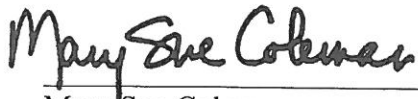
Until a permanent executive director is hired, I am pleased to recommend the appointment of Joe Piersante as interim executive director of DPSS, effective immediately. Mr. Piersante has served as interim police chief in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) since November 2011. He joined DPS in 1991, was appointed deputy chief in 2001, and previously served as interim police chief from February to August 2011. Within DPS, Chief Piersante was instrumental in guiding the department to achieve accreditation in 2009 and advanced reaccreditation in 2012 through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. As DPS field operations commander, he was responsible for managing patrol operations and team community policing, and was instrumental in launching the department's bicycle, motorcycle, and K9 special units.

Summary of Recommendations

Each of the campus security units has a strong record of professionalism and helping keep the campus safe within its individual scope; yet the interaction and coordination among units must be strengthened. I strongly believe that the organizational change that will result from the new structure for the University's safety and security operations is essential to ensure the highest

level of safety, security and accountability for the entire University community. I therefore recommend creation of a new Division of Public Safety and Security and appointment of Joe Piersante as interim executive director of the Division of Public Safety and Security. Mr. Piersante's appointment will be effective immediately and will end upon the appointment of a permanent executive director.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Sue Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mary Sue Coleman
President

October 2012