

Print Clips

SUBJECT: APD

Atlanta Intown

APD integrates Georgia State campus into surveillance camera system

By: Collin

Exterior video surveillance cameras at Georgia State University are now fully integrated with the Atlanta Police Department's Operation Shield Video Integration Center, enabling Atlanta police officers to monitor video footage from 253 campus cameras.

"Georgia State University sits in the heart of Atlanta and through this partnership we can monitor the areas and provide an extra layer of security to protect Georgia State students, faculty and staff," said Chief George Turner in a media statement. "We believe these cameras can deter crime, help our investigators solve crimes and speed our response to emergency incidents in the areas around campus."

The Georgia State cameras are joining a network of more than 6,000 cameras that are already operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"This system strengthens the long-term partnership between Georgia State Police and APD," said Acting Georgia State Police Chief Carlton Mullis. "Our strong working relationships with law enforcement agencies downtown help to keep our campus community secure."

The GSU campus in Downtown has seen a spate of recent armed robberies, including inside the library, and a drug deal incident that led to a shooting.

<http://www.atlantaintownpaper.com/2016/03/apd-integrates-georgia-state-campus-into-surveillance-camera-system/>

SUBJECT: APS

11 Alive

PD investigates alleged sexual battery at BEST Academ

By: Christopher Buchanan

ATLANTA (WXIA) -- Atlanta school officials described an incident Wednesday between two students at BEST Academy in northwest Atlanta as sexual battery -- but at least some parents are using the word rape.

Either way, one student was taken to the hospital, while another was taken into police custody at the school on Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway.

There are plenty of rumors as to what exactly happened, but not much in the way of definitive information being released about the attack, or who the students are that are involved.

Parents were given a letter from APS, assuring them that safety at BEST Academy is the highest priority. Some parents said they were not given enough information soon enough.

Students say the school has had no problems with violence.

Atlanta Police would not provide additional information on the case Wednesday night, saying it is too early in their investigation.

BEST Academy is an all-boys school for students from grades 6-through-12.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/education/apd-investigates-alleged-sexual-battery-at-best-academy/110524389/>

Clips: 03-24-16

SUBJECT: The Mayor

Fox 5

Atlanta mayor orders increased security at airport

By: Morse Diggs and Jaclyn Schultz

ATLANTA - Snipers, SWAT teams, and more officers visibly toting weapons will be a part of what Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed called a "new normal" at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

The change came one day after three men took explosives into an unsecured area of a Belgium airport and killed dozens.

Reed has told his chief to double the number of SWAT team members and tactical officers.

He said he wants some of those officers to carry during their patrols, so they can be ready in an instant to stop an attacker.

Airport officials are also examining a physical change to the unsecured front section of the airport, where you go through screening. That section is frequently congested with hundreds of people packed in queue lines. There could be chaos right there if a terrorist were to try to execute an attack.

One potential physical change would be to design a pre-check location - where identities could be examined and space created in order to avoid masses of vulnerable citizens.

The mayor said an analysis is being done to pinpoint how the Brussels terrorists carried out their attack, and following that, adjustments will be made.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel alert for people planning to travel to Europe.

Meanwhile, people returning on flights from abroad Wednesday evening said they were glad to have touched down safely after the Brussels attacks.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/112692420-story>

SUBJECT: City Council

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Powers of Atlanta Citizen Review Board expanded

By: Dan Klepal

The Atlanta City Council on Monday handed the city's Citizen Review Board a grab-bag of new tools to investigate citizen complaints against police and corrections officers.

One of the biggest changes expands the board's authority in types of cases it can review — the board can now investigate and make disciplinary recommendations on allegations of discrimination, discriminatory references, abuse of authority, discourteous behavior and failing to provide identification.

Previously, the board only had authority in alleged cases of false arrest, false imprisonment, harassment, excessive force and abusive language.

Citizens also can make anonymous complaints to the board for the first time, under the revised ordinance.

Councilman Ivory Lee Young, Jr., who sponsored revisions to the ordinance, said the expansion is an important protection.

“Misconduct is misconduct, and the ordinance should be drafted as broadly as possible,” Young said. “The Citizen Review Board seeks justice — not just for victims but for those accused.”

The review board was created in 2008, in the wake of Atlanta police officers shooting to death a 92-year-old Kathryn Johnston during a botched 2006 drug raid, then planting drugs in her home.

Lee Reid, executive director of the city-funded board, said two other important changes require police officials to give more detailed explanations when they do not go along with the boards'

recommendations; and allows for mediation between a citizen and police officer as part of the complaint process.

While the board has access to investigators, subpoena power and a mandate to provide a credible, independent and “safe and welcoming place” to bring complaints, the police department upheld only 11 percent of the 34 cases in which the review board recommended that the officer be disciplined.

“We need to understand that,” Reid said. “If there is a problem with our process, we want to improve it. But we’ve got to set the standard for what is acceptable in policing.”

The revised ordinance now goes to Mayor Kasim Reed for his signature. It appears the mayor will sign the changes since managers from the police and corrections departments at the committee meeting last weekend had only minor concerns that were dealt with.

Reid, the executive director of the board, said all the new categories of complaints are covered by police policies. Board members now must fulfill mandatory training on police policies and procedures.

Other changes include adding two board members, from the Atlanta Urban League and the Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/powers-of-atlanta-citizen-review-board-expanded/nqp98/>

Clips: 03-11-16

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Proposal would expand powers of Atlanta police review board

By: Dan Klepal

The most sweeping expansion of power in the eight-year history of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board appears headed for a vote of the city council.

The review board was created in 2008, after Atlanta police officers shot a 92-year-old woman during a 2006 drug raid, then planted drugs in her home.

The board investigates citizen complaints against Atlanta police and corrections officers. Representatives from police and corrections expressed no major concerns with the expansion Thursday.

Proposed changes to the city's ordinance would significantly expand the board's reach and purview, by allowing it to investigate more types of complaints — including allegations of abuse of authority; discrimination and discriminatory conduct; inappropriate conduct; harassment; failure to provide identification; and officers not taking appropriate action.

While the board has access to investigators, subpoena power and a mandate to provide a credible, independent and “safe and welcoming place” to bring complaints, it only has the authority to investigate allegations of false arrest, false imprisonment, excessive force and abusive language.

All of the new categories of complaints are areas of conduct covered by the police department's procedures, said Lee Reid, executive director of the city-funded board. Reid said the expansion is important as the board turns away about 30 percent of the complaints it receives because it lacks the authority to investigate.

The board made recommendations on about 34 cases last year, Reid said.

“This is not a power grab,” Reid said. “These are changes intended to better protect citizens and the rights of officers. This will bring more issues to the board so we can have the best police department we can have. That’s the goal.”

Other proposed changes include allowing mediation, requiring police training for board members, requiring more detailed responses from chiefs on disciplinary decisions in cases heard by the board, imposing term limits on board members, and providing a method for filling prolonged vacancies, which is an issue that has plagued the board.

Reid made a presentation to several council members Thursday, during a work session of the council’s Public Safety Committee.

Atlanta Police Major B.K. Martin, from the department’s Office of Professional Standards, brought up only one concern — that the department has to complete citizen complaint cases in 180 days, and mediated cases before the board could take longer.

Corrections Chief Patrick Labat said he would like board members to have training in corrections policy and procedure. Labat also said accused officers should be allowed to bring counsel into hearings.

Councilman Ivory Lee Young, Jr., who is sponsoring the proposed changes, said the legislation will be considered by the Public Safety Committee on Tuesday.

“I’m very hopeful” it will pass, he said. “I don’t see any reason we wouldn’t move forward with this.”

Councilman C.T. Martin also said he thought the changes were ready to go to the full council, which would happen March 21 if they are passed out of committee.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/proposal-would-expand-powers-of-atlanta-police-rev/nqhnX/>

SUBJECT: APD

Guardian Liberty Voice

Atlanta Police Offer Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training

By: Leigh Haugh

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Police Department and the Crime Prevention Unit is proud to announce a Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training on Saturday, March 19, 2016. It will be held at Public Safety Headquarters located at 226 Peachtree Street, SW, Atlanta, GA from 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. EST.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. The four-hour training will teach participants about a wide range of topics, including maintaining a neighborhood watch, home security, vehicles thefts, and personal safety.

Attendees will receive a certificate upon completion of the training.

To register and for more information, contact Inspector C. Hines via email:

cyhines@atlantaga.gov or call 404-546-5713. A RSVP is required by March 14.

<http://guardianlv.com/2016/03/atlanta-police-offer-citywide-neighborhood-watch-training/>