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## Brockport accused of Clery violation

By Carolyn McMenemon

NEWS EDITOR

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The Police Benevolent Association (PBA) of New York State is accusing the College at Brockport of violating the Clery Act based off of a November 2011 incident regarding a student with a weapon on campus.

According to the PBA, a disgruntled former Brockport student returned to campus after expulsion with a rifle and 500 rounds of ammo located in his car trunk.

The student was stopped by campus police and charged with a DWI. It was then discovered the student had a weapon in the car.

The incident was filed and appeared in the campus police blotter the following week.

The labor union, which is the exclusive bargaining agent for the New York State University Police, hired a plane to fly over the Brockport campus Saturday, Nov. 11.

Daniel De Federicis, a representative from PBA, said the plane was a last-minute decision that went into action the week of Nov. 11. Coincidentally, that weekend coincided with family weekend and the last open house of the fall semester. Both events resulted in more people on the Brockport campus than usual, including many parents.

The plane had a sign attached to it that read "Is SUNY Brockport Campus safe 4 students?" The sign also included the address of the group's website, pbanys.org.

A main article on the site gave four reasons why the PBA believes Brockport may not be safe for its students. The first reason was for violations of the Clery Act.

The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring timely notifications to the college after occurrence of dangerous incidents on campus. The Act also requires universities to properly disclose the incidents and make them known to the public.

John Follaco, public relations manager for the college, said Brockport is not under investigation. He said the college followed protocol in handling the November incident and in no way violated the Clery Act.



The PBA, who represents UP officers but not the Chief of UP, said they have contacted the Department of Education (DEC) and requested that an investigation into the college be started.

The DEC, which is in charge of any Clery Act violation investigation, can neither confirm nor deny whether the college is under examination.

If the college, or any institution, is under investigation, the information is not made public until the investigation is complete.

The PBA also proclaimed its issues with Brockport's failure to implement safety recommendations made by the SUNY Chancellor's Task Force in 2007.

In light of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, SUNY devised a task force to review current campus safety practices, policies of identifying individuals who pose a risk to campus and overall make recommendations to improve safety.

A major recommendation by the task force included the purchase of response equipment.

"The cost of implementing these recommendations is significant, and SUNY must be provided the new funding identified in this document to put them in to operation as soon as possible," said the Chancellor's Task Force on Critical Incident Management document.

The response equipment recommended for purchase includes three sets of tactical response equipment, which consists of tactical knee pads, elbow pads, helmets with face shields, riot batons, jumpsuits, gloves, AR15's and shotguns (\$155,100), and two ballistic shields per campus (\$106,400).

No campus in the SUNY system was required to follow these recommendations, as they were just suggestions.

The PBA is requesting Brockport adhere to recommendations made through the task force and purchase the equipment. According to the PBA, most of the 28 SUNY campuses did.

Follaco said the college chose not to follow the task force due to the location of the college. Compared to other SUNY schools that are in more rural areas and don't have easy access to equipment, Brockport is located close enough to enforcement facilities.

"We are in close enough proximity to the type of equipment [the task force] recommended getting," Follaco said. "We are close to the Brockport town police and the Monroe County SWAT team. There is no need to duplicate the equipment."

Follaco and UP Chief Robert Kehoe said if anything were to happen on the Brockport campus, the SWAT team could be here in minutes to take over any situation.

Follaco and Kehoe both express their confidence that if an emergency was to happen, the campus would be prepared.

<http://www.thestylus.net/news/brockport-accused-of-clery-violation-1.2959059#.ULdZm6zXY4N>