FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Morgantown, University Police Create Cooperation and Assistance Agreement to Share Resources in Student Neighborhood

MORGANTOWN – In an effort to share the cost of resources and provide more consistent patrol of an area with a high-density student population, Morgantown and West Virginia University Police have created a cooperation and assistance agreement that gives UPD primary responsibility over law enforcement in the neighborhood that houses most of WVU’s fraternities and sororities.

City Council unanimously approved the agreement proposed at the January 5 meeting.

“By working with the University in an area in which the majority of the population are students, it allows our officers to be utilized more effectively in other areas of the City,” said City Manager Jeff Mikorski. “It’s another way we’re able to allocate our existing resources to improve public safety.”

Under the agreement, University police will have additional power to go beyond the border of the University into the neighborhood to patrol and respond to calls from that area.

Morgantown police will still maintain jurisdiction in the neighborhood and will assist UPD as needed. The agreement will not affect the power of the fire dept., code enforcement or any other City agency to cover that area for their purposes.

The agreement allows MPD to allocate its existing officers to provide additional police coverage to other areas in the City, increasing public safety using the resources already available until the City is able to use funds raised from the Municipal Service Fee to hire and train additional officers later in the year.
“It will take time to get officers hired, through the police academy and out in the field,” Mikorski said. “We still have the same number of officers that we’ve had until those resources become available.”

Currently, the cooperation and assistance agreement is being conducted as a pilot program and will be reviewed quarterly to ensure the proper outcomes are being met.

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