



NEW BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEWS RELEASE

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New Brunswick and Rutgers Police Departments Expand Their Neighborhood Police Teams

The New Brunswick and Rutgers Police Departments will be expanding their existing Neighborhood Police Team (NPT) approach. In March of this year New Brunswick and Rutgers police officers teamed up in the same patrol car and began patrolling the 5th and 6th Wards of the city; areas predominately occupied by off-campus student housing. The concept of putting New Brunswick and Rutgers officers in the same patrol car was a first for both departments. The Neighborhood Police Team focuses on the safety and protection of the 5th and 6th Ward residents along with keeping the off-campus community better informed regarding police and neighborhood issues.

Both police departments have received positive feedback about the Neighborhood Police Team program and have decided to expand its efforts. Starting today, additional two-man teams, consisting of one New Brunswick and one Rutgers officer will be patrolling the 5th and 6th Wards on foot and bicycles. New Brunswick Police Director Anthony A. Caputo and Rutgers Police Chief Kenneth Cop are pleased with the results so far and enthusiastic about the expansion. Director Caputo stated, "The Rutgers students will be returning to New Brunswick in the next two weeks, and we want to have a greater police presence in the 5th and 6th Wards where many of those students reside. I believe that direct one-on-one contact between the students and police provides a safer environment and an effective handling of quality of life issues which affect the students and residents." Chief Kenneth Cop stated, "The safety of the Rutgers community is a priority. These additional patrols in the 5th and 6th Wards will provide greater opportunities for interaction between our off-campus students and the Neighborhood Police Teams and strengthen the ties between the university and the City of New Brunswick."

The number of additional Neighborhood Police Teams deployed, and the times they patrol, will vary depending on the day of the week and the calendar of events affecting those neighborhoods. Obviously the number of Neighborhood Police Teams will be increased during the busier weekend evenings (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) along with Big Ten Football and other Rutgers University sponsored events.