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NEWS

HARRISONBURG--With summer nearing an end and the local college's fall semester approaching, large numbers of students soon will be coming to the Harrisonburg area, many for the first time.

As part of our efforts to welcome the James Madison returning students and incoming freshmen, the Harrisonburg Police Department will engage in a multi-jurisdictional student safety campaign on Wednesday, August 20. The campaign will be directed towards heavily populated neighborhoods that are predominately off-campus housing for students.

The Harrisonburg Police Department's student safety campaign will be conducted in partnership with the JMU Police Department, JMU's Office of Student Accountability, and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Emergency Communication Center.

"We feel strongly that crime prevention efforts are enhanced by informing the community on how to reduce the potential for becoming a victim, as well as letting people know what to expect from their police departments. Educating the community as to how the laws will be enforced will facilitate a safer environment for all," explains HPD's Community Resource Officer Chris Monahan.

The coalition of public safety officers and James Madison University staff who will be involved in the safety campaign is designed to provide education and awareness of local ordinances, state laws and the general acceptance of respectful behaviors within our community.

“All of us are committed to delivering police services that are sensitive to the needs of our community through collaborative partnerships and teamwork, with the safety of the community—both students and residents of the city—being a priority.” Monahan says.

Police officers and other representatives of the participating organizations will provide information to inform students what services they may expect from local law enforcement agencies, the university, and the 911 emergency communications center.

“As we visit neighborhoods and residences, we want people to speak with us, let us know their concerns, and feel free to ask any questions they might have.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: For interviews, Officer Monahan may be reached at the phone numbers shown on the first page.