

DECREASING DISRUPTION IN OFF-CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

A 2022 SPRING SEMESTER PUBLIC POLICY CAPSTONE PROJECT

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION:

The Campus and Community Coalition (CCC) seeks to improve relationships between students living in off-campus neighborhoods and the long-term residents who reside within these communities.



COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES
Public Policy

THE PROBLEM

Neighborhoods near college campuses combine short-term student residents with long-term residents



Loud parties and noise disturbances associated with students living off-campus can damage relationships between students and long-term residents and lead to safety issues

Lack of consistency in enforcement can lead to increased incidents, repeat offenders, and potential bias.



RESEARCH PROCESS

- An initial literature review of relevant published research was conducted to establish context
- Focused interviews were conducted with 5 communities
- Each community we interviewed had programs in place focused on improving community relations and holding partygoers accountable.
- Results were coded into 12 categories and common strategies were identified.
- Interview data was analyzed and results compiled

INTERVIEW FINDINGS

BOSTON COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

UMASS - AMHERST

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

GEORGETOWN



Proactive Approach

- 3 out of 5 communities have a proactive plan in place to prevent disruptions from occurring



Night Time Programs

- Residents can contact a night-watch team instead of getting police involved for disruptions



Trust Building

- For programs to be effective, the community organization needs to be trusted by the community and students



Accountability

- Consistency in enforcement of policy and reporting when necessary helps programs significantly



Educational Campaign

- Educating students on resources they have and roles and responsibilities



Student Involvement

- Including students in the conversation provides a new perspective and can make students more receptive to policy



Role of Policing

- Most organizations use police intervention as a last resort, as it can make students and community feel threatened



Partnerships

- Creating partnerships between community organization, town, university, and student body, makes programs more effective

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUED FOCUS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

- educating students about responsibilities as neighbors
- informing all residents of resources available to them
- off-campus neighborhood community events

CHAPEL HILL ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (CHAP)

- paid employees dedicated to CCC
- night watch program to be first response to parties, before police
- building trust and visibility with students by providing other positive interactions

DATA RECORDING AND RECORD KEEPING

- individuals dedicated to keeping track of program successes, helps to secure funding in the future
- monitoring repeat offenders to keep track of when further action should be taken