



# South Carolina State University

POST OFFICE BOX 7008  
300 COLLEGE STREET, NORTHEAST  
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29117-0001  
(803) 536-7013

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FAX: (803) 533-3622

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Students of SC State University

**FROM:** George E. Cooper  
President

**SUBJECT:** Campus Safety

**DATE:** November 11, 2009

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I am writing this memorandum to you, the students of SC State University and your parents to assure you that your health, wellness, and safety are of the utmost importance to the University's Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and most especially me. I have met with Dr. Charles N. Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs and Interim Police Chief Michael Bartley and we are implementing additional security measures on our campus.

It is important that you understand that we have had several serious incidents to occur on our campus. In each of these incidents the SC State campus police department responded immediately and took the necessary steps to handle these matters, without further incident.

In recent years, we have made several improvements to our campus to ensure that we have a safe and secure environment. They are:

1. Phase I of the lighting project provided additional lighting on campus and as additional funding is available, Phase II will begin and expand campus-wide.
2. The 'Call-Boxes' are installed and contractors are ensuring that they are functioning properly.

3. SC State's Campus Police Officers have recently completed bicycle training. You will see uniformed police officers around campus on bicycles and walk patrol to ensure your safety.
4. Security cameras were installed in critical areas, in 2007, to assist in monitoring movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to our campus. A security review is currently underway to ensure that they are operable and in the best locations.
5. A K-9 officer was brought to campus at the end of last semester (Spring 2009) to assist in monitoring possible drug use and traffic on our campus.
6. Vehicular traffic is restricted between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily. The only entrance open during those hours will be the "Wilkinson Boulevard Entrance" off of Chestnut Street (across from University Village Apartments).
7. "Meet the Chief" meetings are scheduled periodically for students to discuss safety issues. Appropriate actions are implemented to improve campus safety.
8. Additional police officers from Orangeburg Public Safety Department, State Police, Orangeburg Sheriffs Department and other security forces assist on football game days to control traffic and increase safety for students and visitors.
9. We are reviewing efforts similar to "Neighborhood Watch" that will encourage students to report unusual incidents and individuals to Campus Security and a hotline (803-536-8200), has been installed to allow anonymous reporting of issues impacting security.
10. Police Patrols for campus are regular and random.
11. Identification checks are held regularly. Campus Police will be asking that you present your student identification cards, especially in evenings.
12. ***Report all incidents to residence hall advisors and the Campus Police immediately.***
13. Two additional campus police officers were recently hired to increase the number of officers on campus.
14. Security Officers have been assigned to residence halls and are available to share information about security concerns.
15. The Crime Stopper telephone number is (803) 536-8200.

Please know that providing a safe and secure environment is a high priority at SC State University. Should you need assistance or want to report an incident, please call Campus Police at 803-536-7188.

CC: Parents and Alumni  
Faculty and Staff