

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee
Regarding House Bill 2592 & House Bill 2593**

**Testimony of Donald Bergmann
Director of Public Safety, Chief of University Police
The University of Scranton**

**Wednesday, September 1, 2010
Immaculata University
Immaculata, Pennsylvania**

Good morning Chairman Caltagirone and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

My name is Donald Bergmann and I am the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police at The University of Scranton. I am here today in support of House Bills 2592 and 2593. Both pieces of legislation would further strengthen recent growth within my Department.

Before I address the merits of both bills, I would like to share with the Committee a brief history of my Department. After months of extensive training and preparation, we officially began to operate as an armed force on August 21st of this year. Each University officer is sworn with full arrest powers. The University Police are the primary law enforcement agency for the University of Scranton campus. We are the second largest full time police agency in Lackawanna County, second only to the Scranton Police Department. In addition to the training provided through the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission, University officers received other extensive training mandated by the University.

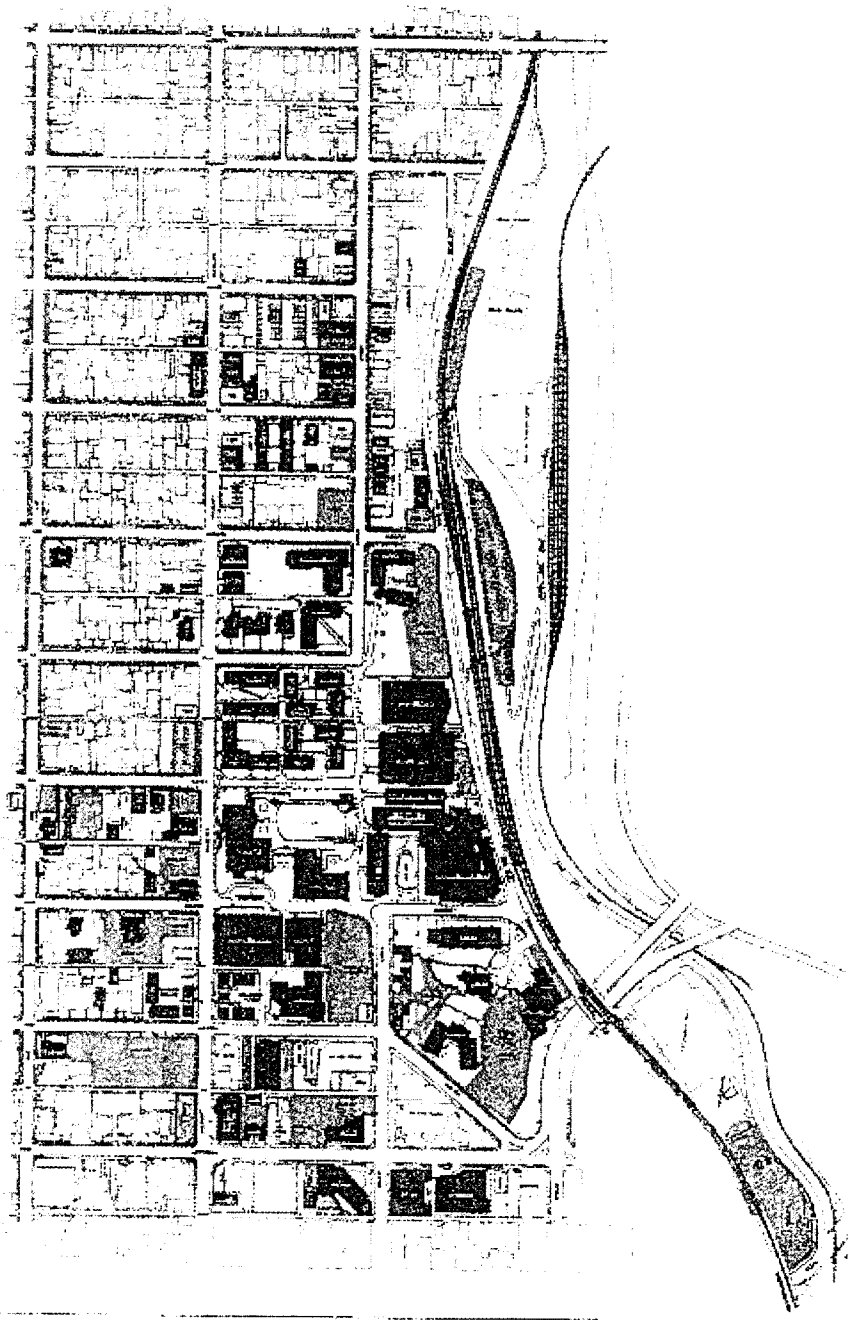
On a personal level, I am an experienced police administrator, originally from a large municipal police department in upstate New York where I served for 24 years. I came to the University of Scranton in 2009 and was tasked with transitioning the Department of Public Safety into a full service, professional University Police force.

First, I would like to comment on House Bill 2592, legislation that would permit my Department to patrol and police up to 500 yards off of University-owned property. Currently, our area of jurisdiction is restricted to "immediate and adjacent" to University property. "Immediate and adjacent" is ambiguous and insufficient. As you would expect, most crimes occur just off campus. University Officers routinely are required to evaluate their legal authority to act before taking any type of enforcement action, off campus.

University students and faculty members have been the victims of gang assaults, home invasions and robberies.

For example, on May 2nd, 2010 a graduate student walking home was the victim of a gang assault. The victim, who offered no provocation or resistance, was beaten and hospitalized in an area within blocks of campus, in an area not patrolled by the University Police. What was particularly concerning was the response from the University Community - they were frustrated and "disgusted" at our inability to prevent or address such a serious assault.

The University of Scranton is a relatively safe urban campus due to increased lighting, the use of a sophisticated video surveillance system and controlled access to most buildings. However, we have far less control off campus. Our University officers need to have the authority to keep these peripheral



Map No. 100
Scale: 1" = 100'
Date: 10/1/80
Author: J. J. ...

Campus Map - November, 1980
University Facilities/Buildings
Non-University Buildings

The University of Scranton
800 Linden Street
Scranton, PA 18510

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY

