

KHG COMMUNITY FORUM WITH LMU DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

PARTIES AND PARKING

On Wednesday, February 19, KHG hosted a Community Forum with Grace Yao, LMU Director of Community Relations. Loren Davis, KHG President, introduced Ms. Yao to the group of approximately 100 community members in attendance. Questions cards from the audience were collected by Ms. Yao and Mr. Davis asked her to be specific in her answers about what she could do to make positive changes to address community concerns.

WHAT ARE THE CONTACT NUMBERS FOR LMU?

Ms. Yao handed out magnets called “LMU Community Contact Guide.” She encouraged members to contact both the LMU Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the LAPD in the case of serious student misbehavior. The reports generated by each organization have different consequences and to cover both sides of the issue, legal and university discipline, it is important to have both reports. She asked that members contact herself or her colleague, Andy O’Reilly, with regard to property damage by students or litter in yards and streets near LMU rentals.

For an emergency, call 911. For non-emergency issues or incidents:

LMU PUBLIC SAFETY (310)338-2893

LAPD DISPATCH (877)275-5273

LADOT PARKING ENFORCEMENT (213)485-4184

GENERAL QUESTIONS (310)338-2759 or lmu.edu/community

LMU DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS grace.yao@lmu.edu

WHAT DOES THE LMU DPS DO WHEN CALLED TO A PARTY?

LMU continues to get many calls about parties. Students who live off campus are required to register with the university at the Department of Off-Campus Student Life. LMU knows where every student lives. **LMU strongly encourages residents when there is an incident to call the LMU Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the LAPD.** When you call DPS they will usually dispatch a public safety officer who later submits a report, but it is also important to call LAPD because they have enforcement power: they can cite and arrest.

The LMU DPS cannot cite and arrest students, they submit reports. Neighbors may not know that LMU DPS is there because they don’t engage with property owners (neighbors); however,

they will engage sometimes with the students. If they are called to a party location, they will park their car and count cars and students and observe their behavior. They may approach the students and ask questions. They turn in their report the next day. LAPD will also submit a report to LMU. LMU has a very cooperative relationship with LAPD. LMU then determines what action to take against the student(s). Information directly from neighbors keeps LMU better informed and allows them to follow up with the neighbors later.

A member of the community made a suggestion: At Tulane University there was a **cut off for parties of 1 AM on weekends** and an earlier hour on weeknights. It was simple for the university to enforce because the rule was very clear. **Students had to register prior to having a party** (a party was defined as more than 20 people) and were required to let campus security know who was giving the party, and the address, date, and hours. **The students were required to hire a security guard** if the group was larger than a specific number. **Campus security would not wait for a call from neighbors or a police report, they would proactively drive by the party** locations sporadically during the evening, and the students knew they would be observing. LMU could take the same approach as Tulane University, where students also rent housing in expensive residential neighborhoods.

ARE THERE WRITTEN RULES REGARDING LMU STUDENT OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR? WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BREAKING THESE RULES?

Ms. Yao stated that there are consequences, however, LMU has done a poor job of following up with residents who have called to register a concern.

Each year LMU issues a student handbook and there are a number of provisions for off-campus student life. The university's position is that although some students do not live on campus, if they break local, state, or federal law, they are representing the university, and there are severe consequences. All of these matters are referred to campus Judicial Affairs. Off-Campus Student Life and Judicial Affairs are cracking down a lot harder on student misbehavior. One of the things they are doing is **deferred suspensions**. If a student is cited, the first time fines are imposed and possibly LAPD seminars. The second time, the student(s) may be placed on deferred suspension which means that even a small infraction could result in suspension.

A member of the community made a suggestion: Kentwood residents should get immediate responses to complaints and accelerated resolution of issues. **LMU should take a more proactive approach** to head off problems before they develop, as Tulane University has done.

WHAT IS LMU DOING TO ALLEVIATE THE PARKING PROBLEM WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM LMU CHARGING HIGH FEES FOR PARKING ON CAMPUS?

Recently, LMU began a new system in which students must “opt out,” must actively select to not pay for parking, or it is automatically added to their tuition bill. As a result of this change, 500 additional cars registered to LMU.

Also, ATIP incentivizes students to minimize trips to campus. LMU has a bus that goes back and forth to the Green Line. If students show proof that they are biking, walking, or going by van pool or car pool, then they get 5 free parking passes. This encourages students to not bring cars on campus.

Ms. Yao said that parking questions and suggestions were discussed at the **Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting (NAC)** in February. She said have answers at the LMU website to the questions and proposals from that meeting. The next NAC Meeting will be held in May.

LMU is building a new life sciences building with 208 parking spaces. LMU currently meets code municipal code requirements for parking. The documents verifying this are posted on the LMU website.

Ms. Yao asked that residents keep her informed of neighborhood concerns. She may be emailed at grace.yao@lmu.edu.

KHG MEMBERS—DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CONTACT THE OWNERS OF RENTAL PROPERTIES WHERE STUDENTS ARE CAUSING NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS?

If neighbors inform the KHG Office about a problem with an LMU rental property, KHG will send a letter to the property owners so there is no confusion about when or if the property owners were notified.