

**Department of Public Safety**

323 S. Madison Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1040
319-335-5022 Fax 319-335-5800

June 16, 2005

State of Iowa Legislative Committee on Government Oversight

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Chuck Green and I am the Assistant Vice President and Director of Public Safety for the University of Iowa. In addition to other services, our department is responsible for law enforcement, critical incident management planning, guard services, oversight of Homeland Security issues, crime prevention and recently, oversight of fire safety issues.

I have been informed that I will be speaking to the Government Oversight Committee addressing State Fire Marshal inspections of the University of Iowa. I wanted to give you some background on myself and what we are doing at the UI to address fire safety issues.

I came to the University of Iowa by way of the Iowa Department of Public Safety where I served as a State Trooper for 2 years assigned to Post 12 in Davenport. I transferred to the State Fire Marshal's office (SFMO) and served as an inspector for 8 years. I was hired by the University of Iowa and worked at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as Manager of Security and Fire Safety for 9 years. I am presently serving as Assistant Vice President and Director of Public Safety for the University. I have served as Director for 10 years.

In 2001 I was asked to begin addressing fire safety issues on campus. Before that time the primary responsibility for campus fire safety fell on two departments; the UI Facilities Services Group now known as Facilities Management and the Health Protection Office. The Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Doug True, decided that the Department of Public Safety would now take the lead role in addressing campus fire safety. I also received training in 2001 that qualified me as a Campus Fire Safety Management Specialist.

In an effort to capitalize on the talents and experience of several campus entities, in 2002 I began chairing the Fire Safety Advisory Group (FSAG) comprised of representatives from Residence Services, Facilities Management, Health Protection, Risk Management and Public Safety. This group is charged with general oversight and coordination of campus fire safety concerns as well as forwarding fire related recommendations to University administration.

In 2003, I began chairing the UI Code Review Committee which expanded to include representatives from Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa and the Board of Regents. The Regents Code Review Team is dedicated to working closely with the SFMO to insure that the most up-to-date fire and building codes are being used at our universities to enhance life safety now and well into the future.

In light of the reported fires that have occurred on college campuses across the nation, the University is most proud of what has occurred in our Department of Residence Services to improve the safety of our students. Over the last several years fire safety features have been significantly improved and updated. Many of these fire safety improvements, including sprinkler systems and addressable fire detection systems, were voluntary. We currently have 10 resident halls: Burge, Daum, Currier, Stanley, Hillcrest, Parklawn, Quadrangle, Rienow, Mayflower and Slater. Some of the improvements include the following:

- Currier is equipped with sprinkler protection in the basement and attic areas; Burge and Hillcrest dining areas are equipped with sprinkler protection. Daum, Stanley, Mayflower, Quadrangle, Rienow and Parklawn are equipped with complete sprinkler protection.
- Burge, Daum, Currier, Stanley, Hillcrest, Parklawn, Quadrangle, Rienow and Mayflower have been equipped with new addressable detection systems. These new addressable fire alarm systems are equipped with automated voice chips capable of broadcasting safety information throughout the residence halls.

- All residence halls have received an upgrade in detection and fire alarm systems.
- All exit signs and portable fire extinguishers were reviewed and updated in accordance with applicable codes.
- Residence Services maintenance staff checks the fire protection systems twice a year when only one check is required. Fire evacuation drills are conducted, with resident's participation, each fall semester.

In August of 2004, we created the position of Fire Safety and Security Coordinator who serves in my department. The person selected for this position, Mr. Bruce McAvoy, came to us with a strong background in fire safety and an established relationship not only with the SFMO but the local Iowa City Fire Department as well. His relationship with the SFMO has only improved through increased contact with their leadership including membership in the State Fire Marshal Association along with the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association. Mr. McAvoy's duties include serving as the main UI contact with the inspection branch of the SFMO and insuring that deficiencies noted on past and future fire inspections will be corrected in a timely fashion. Additionally, both Bruce and I are members of the National Fire Protection Association.

Although this re-tooled commitment to fire safety is relatively recent, it has already produced significant fruit. Bruce McAvoy took the lead in addressing one of our most challenging buildings as respects fire safety issues. This building had 10 deficiencies, half of which had been on the SFMO form for over 5 years. The challenge was compounded by the fact that the building is approaching the end of its useful life and yet it was still needed. Bruce successfully negotiated an agreement between the SFMO and the University to address selected life safety features that allowed us to continue using the building.

Our commitment to enhancing fire safety on this campus is not window dressing, it is real! Bruce, I and the entire FSAG, have the support of UI administration in this effort. We certainly realize that we can improve and we have the right people and teams in place to make significant improvements. I look forward to an opportunity to meet with all of you to address your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,
Charles D. Green, Assistant Vice President and Director
University of Iowa Department of Public Safety