

Campus Public Safety Officers Continue Fight to Better Serve OUS Community

For the past two sessions campus public safety officers have fought for increased safety on college campuses by introducing legislation to give campus safety officers the training and resources they need to keep campuses safe. Currently officers on campuses have inconsistent training on the different campuses and are expected to perform duties similar to police officers, but lack training or resources police officers receive.

In 2009, SEIU members supported a bill to give officers the ability to cite people for violations. Currently officers can arrest and detain people on campuses, but they can't cite and release them for later appearance in court. This often leads to a situation where officers have the choice to let someone go or arrest them. This inconsistency makes it very hard for officers to effectively do their jobs and keep the campuses safe.

The legislation introduced in 2009 didn't pass. But continued pressure from officers has set a process in motion of meetings with the university system and an interim taskforce to look at the resources and training officers need to effectively protect students and staff on campuses.



"We've been trying to get a legislative solution to this problem for several years. Although we didn't achieve the success we wanted, with SEIU 503's endorsement and support, we were able to bring enough pressure to bear that a legislative taskforce is being formed, headed by Sen. Floyd Prozanski, to look into this matter and hopefully provide us the ability to effectively keep our campuses safe."

Greg Marks, PSU
Campus Public
Safety Officer

Public Safety Officers Mike Silver (WOU) and Greg Marks and Mike Anderson (PSU) lobbied all session for increased campus safety.