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Wake Inn Crime Information and Statistics (Mayor Pro Tem Branch) Netforces Initiative (Council Member Patton)

INFORMATION:

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

General Follow Up

Wake Inn Crime Information and Statistics (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)

Staff Resource: Scott Oosterhoudt, Police, 996-1515, scott.oosterhoudt@raleighnc.gov

Council requested information regarding patterns of criminal activity and enforcement efforts at Wake Inn located at 3210 New Bern Avenue. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to this request.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the June 6 City Council Meeting

Netforces Initiative (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Chief Herbert Griffin, RFD, 996-6115, herbert.griffin@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested a staff report on the previous history and deployment of the Netforces Initiative. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to this request.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 23 – Thursday, June 29

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Out! Raleigh Pride](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Saturday, June 24

Event Time: 11:00am - 6:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Morgan Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Hargett Street, Martin Street, and Davie Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 4:00am until 11:00pm.

[Southeastern Wake Adult Day Center Community Day](#)

Carl Sandburg Court

Saturday, June 24

Event Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Carl Sandburg Court between Michael J. Smith Lane and the end of the cul-de-sac will be closed from 8:00am until 4:00pm.

[World Refugee Day](#)

Moore Square

Saturday, June 24

Event Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Sidewalks directly next to Moore Square on all sides of the park will be used from 3:00pm until 8:00pm.

[Black Flea Market](#)

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, June 25

Event Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 12:00pm until 6:00pm every Sunday through 10-29-23.

[Dunk DiDi](#)

Nash Square

Thursday, June 29

Event Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Nash Square will be used from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

[Poyner YMCA 5th Birthday Celebration](#)

Exchange Plaza

Thursday, June 29

Event Time: 4:30pm - 8:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Exchange Plaza will be used from 3:00pm until 8:30pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[Vintage Market](#)

Friday, June 23

Moore Square

[My Brother, My Brother and Me](#)

Friday, June 23
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Grupo Frontera “El Comienzo” Tour](#)

Friday, June 23
Memorial Auditorium

[Peter Frampton](#)

Saturday, June 24
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Performance Edge 2023](#)

Saturday, June 24
Fletcher Opera Theater

[The Adventure Zone](#)

Saturday, June 24
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Artist Reception: Affinity Travelers Exhibition](#)

Saturday, June 24
Pullen Arts Center

[Brick Universe](#)

Saturday, June 24 & Sunday, June 25
Raleigh Convention Center

[Connect Raleigh: Giving Back Through Volunteerism](#)

Sunday, June 25
Moore Square

[Summer Concert Series](#)

Sunday, June 25
Pullen Park

[Moore Square Market](#)

Sunday, June 25
Moore Square

[Celtic Throne – The Royal Journey of Irish Dance](#)

Monday, June 26
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Voices of Oberlin Exhibition Reception](#)

Thursday, June 29
Block Gallery

Public Resources

[Pilot Text Alert Program](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 23 – Thursday, June 29

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
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Event Feedback Form: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

Road Closure and Road Race Map: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

Online Events Calendar: View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Corey Branch, Mayor Pro Tem Marchell Adams-David, City Manager Lou Buonpane, Chief of Staff Wesley Householder, Senior Policy Analyst
Thru	Estella Patterson, Chief of Police
From	Scott Oosterhoudt, Deputy Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	June 23, 2023
Subject	Council Response – Wake Inn

This memo responds to Mayor Pro Tem Branch’s request for information concerning the Wake Inn located at 3120 New Bern Avenue.

The Wake Inn is a two-story, 27,000-square-foot hotel built in 1986. It is located approximately one block from Wake Medical Center and is immediately west of Calumet Drive and the Pines of Ashton Apartments. Occupants pay roughly \$60.00 per night for a single room. The hotel was last sold on June 30, 2000, to Swejay Inc. According to open-source information from the NC Secretary of State Business Entity Search, the registered agent for Swejay Inc. is Subhash Patel, whose office address is 329 Cypress Falls Drive, Cary, NC, 27513. It appears that the Budgetel Inn, located at 3804 New Bern Avenue, is owned by a business associate of Mr. Patel. The registered agent for the Budgetel, Raviraj Viradiya, lists his business address as 3120 New Bern Avenue (Wake Inn). Raviraj Viradiya is also the manager of the Wake Inn.

The Wake Inn uses significant police resources because of the criminal activity occurring at the hotel. Occupants of the hotel often stay there for extended periods, using it more as a residence than a hotel. Proof of this was evident with surveillance camera systems were found mounted near room doors and in exterior walkways to alert occupants of the presence of law enforcement. A drug search warrant was executed on one of these rooms and a security camera array was discovered. The cameras were positioned to view the exterior of the entry door and hallways that approach the room. A large monitor was found in the room that was used to monitor the cameras. The occupants were found to be manufacturing and selling crack cocaine from the room. Both were arrested and charged with felony drug violations.

A review of the calls for service to the Wake Inn between January 2023 and June 2023 revealed 832 911-initiated and self-initiated calls. This is a decrease of 205 calls for the same period in 2022 and 395 less than those in 2021. Thirty-four overdose calls occurred in 2023 (YTD), nine less than in 2022. Between January 2019 and June 2023, 147 overdoses occurred at the Wake Inn. The most prevalent calls for service in 2023 are security checks (503), trespassing (344), disturbances (289), and assisting other agencies (EMS, RFD) (180).

A review of violent crime reported at the Wake Inn (2023 YTD) revealed three aggravated assaults, eight simple assaults, 20 felony drug violations, and two motor vehicle thefts. Last year saw 11 aggravated assaults, 18 simple assaults, 18 felony drug violations, one homicide, and five motor vehicle thefts.

Between January 2020 and June 2023, 11 people sustained gunshot wounds while at the Wake Inn. Of the 11 aggravated assaults with a firearm, one resulted in a murder.

Adjacent property managers have complained to the police department about the conditions in and around the Wake Inn. In response to these complaints, the Southeast District Commander has met with the hotel manager, Raviraj Viradiya. During these meetings, changes to how the hotel does business were suggested to help curtail criminal activity and law enforcement calls for service to the hotel. The manager was unwilling to change their policy of accepting cash to pay for stays at the hotel. Paying cash enables the renter to remain anonymous, whereas using a credit card provides the hotel with the renter's name. A three-night limit was suggested for guests, which could aid in limiting occupants engaging in long-term criminal activity and setting up sophisticated surveillance camera arrays. The manager initially agreed to this, but when another meeting occurred, it was discovered that long-term stays were the norm again.

Police department personnel will continue enforcing quality of life and criminal statutes around the hotel. Meetings with the property manager will continue in hopes of limiting the number of instances police resources are called to the hotel. Police personnel will conduct a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) review of the property and provide the management with the subsequent recommendations. Consultations with other COR departments and law enforcement agencies are ongoing.

CC: Marchell Adams-David
Lou Buonpane

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	
From	Herbert Griffin, Fire Chief
Department	Raleigh Fire Department
Date	June 21, 2023
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: The Netforce Program Timeline

The Netforce Program was created along with the Amplified Entertainment Permit (AEP) to inspect and enforce assembly occupancies classified by the NC Building Code as Nightclubs. This initiative was established in 2003 as a result from The Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island that occurred on February 20, 2003. The program was developed with additional life safety measures required to prevent such tragedy from happening within the City of Raleigh. The initial program consisted of representatives from the following organizations:

- City of Raleigh Fire Marshal's Office
- City of Raleigh Inspections Department
- City of Raleigh Police Department
- Wake County Public Health
- NC Alcohol Law Enforcement

2003 - The ordinance allowed the Police Department to enforce the requirement of the life safety device (AEP) and provide security for staff. The county Public Health Inspector would check for proper sanitation of food and beverages while NC Alcohol Law Enforcement would check the establishment's beer and wine for compliance. The Building Inspector would assist the Fire Marshal with inspecting readily accessibility of exits, emergency lighting, and occupancy load. The fire inspectors would test the AEP during their annual fire inspection for continuous operation.

2012 – The position for a shift Fire Marshal was created to support the Netforce Program and assist other agencies within the City of Raleigh. This position was created due to routine overnight calling and dispatching from Raleigh Police to Raleigh Fire Battalion Chiefs for code enforcement assistance at overcrowded nightclubs. The shift Fire Marshal was the lead inspector for Netforce.

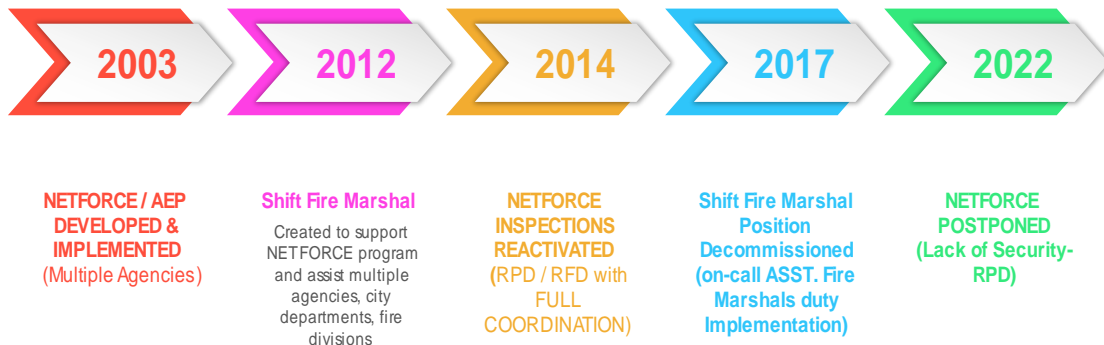
2014 – The Netforce Program was reactivated after a brief deactivation period. The Netforce Program was reactivated with only Raleigh Police and Raleigh Fire. Other organizations stopped participating due to business complaints and lack of personnel. The Police Chief and Fire Chief agreed to full coordination from the Office of the Fire Marshal to continue the Netforce Program within the City of Raleigh.

2017 – Due to unintentional employee compensation of the shift Fire Marshal position, the City of Raleigh executive staff advised the Fire Department to seek alternative means of providing the same services. An on-call program was created for the Office of Fire Marshal. This allowed the Netforce Program to continue by utilizing the on-call Assistant Fire Marshal and on-call Deputy Fire Marshal with Raleigh Police as security.

2022 – The Raleigh Police Department was no longer able to support the Netforce Program due to lack of personnel. The Fire Marshal postponed the program until further notice due to the safety of personnel and lack of security by Raleigh Police.

Raleigh Office of Fire Marshal

NETFORCE PROGRAM



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