

## **Fact sheet on public safety in South Campus Gateway garage**

- The 1,200-space South Campus Gateway garage opened in mid-2005.
- The garage was designed with attention to public safety with high levels of lighting, clear sightlines and the incorporation of the project's security office within the garage.
- South Campus Gateway has approximately 100 surveillance cameras on the site with about half of those in the parking garage. The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day in the Gateway security office located on the first floor of the parking garage. In addition, the Ohio State University Police have access to monitor the Gateway surveillance cameras from the University Police headquarters on Woody Hayes Drive.
- Gateway employs private on-site security staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The security office is located on the first floor of the parking garage near the East 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue entrance and exit. At least three security staff members are on duty during the peak on-site activity periods of Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.
- Gateway also employs four special duty Columbus police officers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to augment the project's private security personnel.
- Gateway has engaged a third-party consulting firm, Security Risk Management Consultants, to help plan and advise on public safety equipment and programming. The firm most recently completed a security audit of Gateway last year.
- The garage's security program of lighting, cameras, security staff and other public safety measures appears to be very effective in discouraging most normal crimes against people and property which typically occur in a public parking facility.

### **Facts related to the shooting on Sunday morning, March 30, 2008:**

- As is normally the case, four special duty Columbus police officers and three Gateway security staff, including the director of security, were on duty Saturday night-Sunday morning. All of these personnel were in the garage at the time of the shooting.
- Activities at South Campus Gateway and in the parking garage were routine.
- As restaurants and nightspots in the area began to close during the early hours of Sunday morning, vehicles attempting to exit the parking garage began to back up. Following standard procedures, the four special duty Columbus police officers and the three Gateway security staff had moved into the parking garage to help direct traffic and facilitate vehicles to leaving in a relatively rapid, orderly fashion.

- After the one shot was fired, the special duty Columbus police officers in the garage responded immediately and back-up Columbus police arrived quickly. The police ordered that the garage be “locked down” to seek suspects in the shooting and to protect the crime scene. Police officers took one man into custody in the garage. A handgun was recovered near the garage.
- Surveillance cameras recorded the circumstances surrounding the shooting and the shooting event. All of the surveillance video was turned over to the Columbus Division of Police.
- The staff members of Campus Partners and South Campus Gateway express sympathies for the victims and their families of the shootings last July and on Sunday morning.
- In each of the two shootings which have occurred in the Gateway garage, a confrontation or altercation among the involved parties had preceded the event and had escalated to a gun being fired with terrible consequences. Neither lighting nor witnesses nor cameras nor the nearby presence of police officers were able to deter these isolated acts of violence.
- As part of its continuous program of quality improvement, Campus Partners and South Campus Gateway management staff are reviewing the specific circumstances of the situation in the garage during the time of the most recent event and will consult with Columbus Police and University Police regarding any possible adjustments to the operation of the garage, deployment of security staff, or other measures in light of the recent shooting.

April 7, 2008