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## **Nashua higher education institutions enforce rules with unarmed officers**

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Staff Writer

While the use of armed police at large four-year colleges and universities is questioned, Nashua' schools keep the peace with crews of unarmed security officers.

Former University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing was charged with murder July 29 after Samuel DuBose was shot during a traffic stop, prompting case prosecutor Joe Deters to criticize universities in the policing business.

Two-thirds of U.S. four-year colleges and universities with more than 2,500 students have sworn in police empowered to make arrests and carry guns, according to a 2015 report by the U.S. Justice Department, [www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cle1112.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cle1112.pdf).

However, with small student populations, Nashua colleges manage campus safety with unarmed staff, who reach out to city police officers in the case of criminal violations.

"We don't have the powers of arrest, we don't have guns or any weapons at all," said Rivier Director of Public Safety, Joe McDonald.

Compared with the University of Cincinnati's student population of more than 43,000, Rivier University and Daniel Webster College oversee much smaller populations with an "unsworn department."

"Up here in New Hampshire, only UNH and Plymouth have police. Anyone else is pretty much like my department," said McDonald. "We don't even do traffic stops because these are actually city streets," he said.

At Rivier, a crew of seven safety officers, a supervisor, dispatch and McDonald oversee the private Catholic university of 2,520 undergraduates and graduate students.

"Most of my full time staff are retired police officers," he said.

The team also has a good working relationship with city police.

"I used to be one of them. The Nashua Police Department also hold trainings in the buildings here on occasion," he said, adding the rapport keeps campus security in line with city standards.

The majority of issues on campus don't need police attention, he said.

"Usually in this campus, most things we deal with are minor; 95 percent of what we deal with can be resolved right here," said McDonald, adding city police are only called on occasion.

The most recent Clery Report (an annual disclosure of university crime statistics) reflects a generally quiet campus. In 2013, the most reported violation involved alcohol or drugs, with 86 and 25 respective incidents leading to campus disciplinary action and no arrests.

The same year, the only campus criminal reports were from one account of stalking and one of burglary.

The University of Cincinnati Clery Report show the school dealing with more serious and more frequent crime. For instance, 12 burglaries, three reports of campus sexual assault, four off-campus sexual assaults and two reports of arson to name a few. Also, 176 on campus alcohol violations and 24 drug violations.

Nashua's Daniel Webster College paints a similar picture in its Clery Report with drug and alcohol violations comprising the vast majority of incidents in 2013. Reporting 47 alcohol and four drug violations resulting in campus disciplinary action, the only other crimes listed were four reports of burglary on campus property.

The private college enrolls 650 students, and has a campus safety staff of seven unarmed officers led by director Kevin Moore.

Moore said like Rivier, DWC has an unarmed force, but keeps a strong relationship with Nashua Police.

"We have a really good working relationship," he said.

City police are called for crimes beyond university violations; and also to help with special events, he said.

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