

For Immediate Release

Date: Feb 16, 2010

From: St James Athletic Club

Re: St Clare's Security



To All St James AC Members:

As many of you are aware of by now, over the past few weeks, there have been three reported break-ins of cars at St Clare's parking lot involving cars of club members. Needless to say, the Board takes this situation very seriously, and this memo is an attempt to make you aware of the facts that are known as of now.

First, it appears that all three incidents involved cars that had items visible to the thieves (sitting on the front seat for instance). None of the incidents involved any face to face confrontation. Two of the thefts occurred during the week nights while practices were occurring, and one was on a weekend during a game. Presently, there are no known suspects.

The Board contacted the Cincinnati Police Department, District 5, to get their take on the situation and to determine if there was a bigger issue in using St Clare's. Captain David Bailey, Commander of District 5, responded to our inquiries. Following is an excerpt from his response pertaining to the risk assessment of using St Clare's.

Nothing of course is a guaranteed but this is our observations:

- *In this economy, theft from vehicles is a problem in almost every jurisdiction, not just Cincinnati or the College Hill neighborhood.*
- *It is rare where we have seen acts of random violence. Most of the time violent acts involve those in the drug trade or other criminal enterprises where violence is utilized for retribution or to protect their trade.*
- *For the most part, schools have experienced little crime.*
- *The College Hill business district now has functional surveillance cameras which have helped to reduce some of the problems.*
- *In 2009, District Five saw some significant reduction in crime, especially violent crimes.*

Every day, on second shift, we typically assign a discretionary patrol unit to College Hill to assist in preventing criminal activities.

Captain Bailey has also communicated to us that patrols have been put on alert in this area, and the club has provided them with a schedule of the dates and times which we use this facility so that additional visibility of the police in this area can occur while we are there.

In part, based on the Captain's comments, St James AC will continue to use St. Clare's as needed. It would be logistically impossible for our club to have as many boys' basketball and girls' volleyball teams as we do if we did not have access to outside gym time such as at St. Clare's. We have contacted other possible sites (i.e. Little Flower) in the past and again when this issue arose, but none of these facilities are available to us at this time.

In fact, when we look at the options for gym space, few exist at all, and we have found none from an availability & convenience perspective and quality of facility that can match what we have at St Clare's.

So what do we do ...

1. As parents, coaches and leaders of our club, we have to be even more vigilant when at St Clare's.
2. Do not just drop the kids off and leave right away without insuring that your children have successfully entered the building. Ideally escort them in.
3. When picking your children up, come inside and escort them out.
4. Remind the kids to stay in the building.
5. As adults attending a practice or event, please keep an eye open for anyone unusual or suspicious. If you see someone like this, call 911 and give them your information. The Police have told us to call them so that they can direct patrols accordingly.
6. DO NOT LEAVE ANY VALUABLE VISABLE WITHIN YOUR VEHICLES AND ALWAYS MAKE SURE THEY ARE LOCKED.

Please note that while these suggestions certainly apply to St. Clare's, we should be just as vigilant at any facility including our own at St James.

Unfortunately, problems like this are not limited to College Hill. Within a neighborhood of St James, Lakehills, there have been multiple break-ins over the past couple months, so we can't just run away from this because it can and does happen just about everywhere. As we move forward, the Board will continue to assess any opportunity we may have to better secure St Clare's (we are talking to them about the possibility of a keyless entry system so that doors can remain locked) and/ or other options to better insure the safety of all our families.

If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know as well. Feel free to contact myself, John Klare at ijklarejr@gmail.com or JimButtelwerth at jsbuttelwerth@cinci.rr.com.

Respectfully,

John Klare

St James Athletic Club President