



Christopher Daniel, CHIEF

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Contact:
Audrey Clarke, Public Information Representative
813-974-3568
auclarke@usf.edu

Campus Safety Report

Tampa, Fla.: Upon receiving requests from several local media outlets, the University of South Florida Police Department (USF Police) has reviewed a list of college campus safety rankings recently published by a home security website, Alarms.org. After reviewing the methodology used to rank campuses, we still have questions about the validity of the study and we feel it provides some misleading information.

In particular, the study uses “police adequacy” as one of the major criteria, without offering a detailed definition of the term. Although USF Police has mutual aid agreements with surrounding law enforcement agencies, including the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Temple Terrace Police Department and Tampa Police Department, this study takes into account crime in those nearby areas, which are outside of the USF Police jurisdiction. Although the report provides some good statistical information, even the authors concede that “due to the many different variables in play such as campus size, location, and culture, coming up with an accurate and fair ranking is a challenge.”

USF Police annually publishes an [Annual Safety Report](#), and submits a [Uniform Crime Report](#) (UCR) to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) semi-annually and annually. Our crime statistics reported to FDLE show a significant decrease in crime from 2017 to 2018. Overall index crimes, including violent and property crimes as defined by FDLE, dropped from 281 to 243. Specifically, violent crimes dropped from 14 in 2017 to seven in 2018.

Over the past several years, the USF Police Department has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce crime, including safety education programs, enhanced training and new technologies. This includes our [Rape Aggression Defense](#) (RAD) program and launching a dynamic safety application, [USF Safe](#). The university’s official safety app, USF Safe provides our community members and parents with a wealth of real-time safety information and campus resources.

“The safety of our students, faculty and staff is a top priority for the University of South Florida,” said USF Police Chief Chris Daniel. “Our police department is dedicated to providing a safe environment, and our officers will continue to be vigilant and visible throughout campus.”

USF Police reminds all members of the campus community that safety is everyone’s responsibility, and we encourage everyone that if they “see something, say something.”

Our emergency and non-emergency dispatchers are available 24/7 by calling 9-1-1 or 813-974-2628.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to remember the following tips:

- Be keenly aware of the environment around you – awareness is key.
- Anticipate the unexpected on the campus roads and sidewalks.
- If you see something, say something.

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