

Party House Issues: Although the Covid19 pandemic has shut down most on-campus class attendance at the University of Washington, there continue to be problems with off-campus student parties in rental homes. There has been a sudden uptick in complaints by our family neighbors for such activity along 18th, 19th, and 20th Ave NE. University Park Neighborhood is a family neighborhood, not a student party neighborhood. You can help keep it that way by reporting these parties.

Note that there have been major changes in our options for reporting violations, due to the Covid19 shutdowns and the major overhaul of the Seattle Police Department (SPD). In the past, some chronic incidents led to a response from the SPD Community Police Team Officer (CPTO), who would set up a meeting with the property residents, and possibly contact the property owner/manager, in order to resolve the issue. Unfortunately, the CPTO program has been recently eliminated by the Chief of Police. Although a response to party-related noise disturbances by the SPD is currently unlikely, it is imperative that formal complaints be submitted to the SPD, in order to officially document the individual incidents for future review and potential action.

In light of these changes at the SPD, University Park residents should take the extra step of contacting relevant UW offices (listed below) to make them aware of any houses engaged in disruptive student partying. Your email should include the following information: the address, time and date of the disturbance, and details of the problems (noise, illegal activity, number of participants, and any action taken in dealing with the problems personally).

Here are some resources provided by the City of Seattle and the UW:

- For information regarding noise ordinances, please refer to the [University Park Information Booklet](#) or visit the [Seattle Police Website](#). The residential noise ordinance is enforced beginning at 10 p.m. Sunday – Friday and 11 p.m. on Saturday and applies if the noise can be heard beyond 75 feet from the property.
- For UW regulations, please visit the [UW Community Standards and Student Conduct](#) page. There you will be able to access the Student Conduct Code section, which includes a specific subsection, titled: “WAC 478-121-120 Creating a public nuisance in neighboring communities”. Here is the content in its entirety:

“In furtherance of the university's interest in maintaining positive relationships with its surrounding communities, the university shall have the authority to hold students accountable under this conduct code for misconduct within any residential or commercial communities adjacent to a university campus. Conduct proceedings may be initiated if the university is made aware that a student or student organization has been contacted by a law enforcement agency regarding, and is determined to have engaged in, conduct that is in violation of a state statute or municipal ordinance and has a direct quality of life impact on community residents or businesses, including, but not limited to, creating a public nuisance due to noise, residential disturbance, intentional destruction of property, urinating in public, or criminal trespass.”

To create a paper trail and documentation of each incident, the UPCC and the UW offer this approach to reporting and following up on any chronic student behavioral issues:

1. Make a formal report to the Seattle Police Department. Even if there is no active response, this action will still provide a documented record of the issue. (call 911 or 206-625-5011)
2. Contact the following UW departments and provide them with the specifics listed above:
 - ahoard@uw.edu
 - dhotz@uw.edu
 - cssc@uw.edu
3. Contact the UPCC board member in charge of safety issue and nuisance properties:
raykraft@gmail.com

Ultimately, there will be no recognition of these problems unless we are all willing to alert the UPCC, UW, and Seattle Police. The more robust and proactive our participation in the process, and the more information we provide in real time, the more immediate will be the response and the more effective will be any efforts to resolve this chronic behavior.

We are a family community, and we can be most effective working together to keep our neighborhood safe and family friendly.