OFF-CAMPUS PARTIES/SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND YOU

As a student, your behavior while living off campus greatly impacts your neighbor’s image of all University students. If you are a member of a fraternity or sorority, your behavior also impacts your neighbors’ image of Greek Letter Organizations. This is particularly true when it involves a party/social gathering you are sponsoring at your apartment. As a student who has chosen to reside off campus, you have rights AND RESPONSIBILITIES as a community resident.

I would strongly encourage you to consider the following suggestions if you choose to host a party/social gathering at your residence:

• Talk to your neighbors before the party/social gathering. Let them know what you’re having and when it will start and end. Leave them your name and phone number. Encourage them to call if there is a problem during the event so you can correct it before someone calls the police.

• During the party/social gathering let your guests know you are the contact person. If a neighbor calls, they’ll know to take a message or find you.

• Avoid overcrowding which might: (1) block apartment exits in case of any emergency, (2) result in your porch or entire apartment collapsing, (3) result in vehicles blocking your street in case fire, police and/or medical units need to respond and/or (4) force your guests to inappropriately use "outdoor bathroom facilities."

• Periodically during the night, walk outside to check the noise level and adjust it accordingly.

• It is your responsibility to stay in control of yourself AND your guests. Please do not let your guests abuse or misuse alcohol as excessive use of alcohol can lead to sexual assault, legal problems and even death.

• Know and observe New York State Law in terms of your liability in providing alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 years of age as well as the City of Albany's "Open Container Law" and "Noise Ordinance."

* Open Container Violation: It is illegal for a person to possess an open container of alcoholic beverage in a public place.

* Noise Ordinance: It is unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any unnecessary or unusual noise between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., which either annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others, or to make, continue or cause to be made or continued between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. . . . or in the use of or operation of any radio, receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, television set or other device for the production or reproduction of sound, or otherwise any noise which either annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others . . . An offense against this ordinance is a Violation punishable by a $250.00 fine and/or 15 days in jail.
• If a police officer comes to your residence as a result of a complaint, I strongly encourage you to do the following:
  - Answer the door
  - If he/she asks for the lease, have one or all speak to the officer
  - Be polite and or respectful at the initial contact
  - Don’t lie about your name or place of residence
  - Don’t argue with or about the situation, if you feel you were wronged or treated disrespectfully, there are avenues for you to pursue

• After the party/social gathering, clean up the area around your apartment as well as your neighbors’ if needed. Contact your neighbors the next day and thank them for their cooperation.

If you have a problem at your party/social gathering and need assistance, contact the Albany Police Department at 438-4000 and/or call Thomas Gebhardt, Director of Personal Safety & Off-Campus Affairs at the University Police Department weekdays at 442-3130 or call the "Off-Campus Hotline" at 442-5888 anytime (leave a message if he is not in).