

DePAUL UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SGA ANNOUNCES ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT EXPANDED SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR THE DePAUL COMMUNITY**

CHICAGO, Illinois – On the afternoon of April 13th, 2023, three students were severely attacked on the DePaul University Lincoln Park campus. The three attacks were committed by the same person, who is a registered sex offender in both the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. The attacker was charged with two felony counts of unlawful restraint, one felony count of aggravated battery and use of a deadly weapon, and one misdemeanor count of theft and unauthorized control.

Through close partnership and active dialogues, DePaul SGA, the President's Office, and students affected by the April 13th attacks are taking meaningful action to address safety on campus. DePaul SGA will reimagine community and administrative collaboration on the issue of campus safety by hosting an SGA Assembly for students, staff, and faculty on May 4th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center Atrium. This event will inform the University community of the severity of recent safety issues, discuss strategies to improve safety at DePaul, and allow students to voice their concerns.

DePaul University is currently an open campus. With the exception of residence hall buildings, access control systems are not utilized at any of the buildings on either of DePaul's campuses. Public Safety officers also are currently not permitted to approach individuals to confirm their affiliation with DePaul unless they are actively committing a crime.

In previous academic years, SGA representatives have called on past University administrations to implement changes such as the installation of access-controlled turnstiles in buildings along with the amendment of policies that restrict the ability of Public Safety officers to interact with people on campus. SGA believes the most recent attacks were the result of an institutional failure by DePaul University and understands the University community is missing critical information on the need for campus safety infrastructure. Together, DePaul SGA, the President's Office, and affected students will ideate and execute a series of proposals changing how campus security and provision of resources for survivors of violence are conducted across the University.

DePaul SGA is best described as an organization of students dedicated to the advocacy of student interests.

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