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Dear Ms. Taylor,

Thank you for granting us the opportunity to engage in a dialogue about the safety concerns raised by the Student Government Association (SGA) regarding public safety training, presentations, self-defense classes, and our overarching commitment to fostering a secure learning environment.

Upon my arrival in December, prompted by Dr. Nadler's invitation, I had the privilege of attending an SGA meeting where I addressed inquiries similar to those you've outlined. During this meeting, I extended an offer from our department to collaborate closely with the SGA in organizing the safety classes and presentations noted in the provided minutes. Furthermore, we expressed our eagerness to partner with SGA and other student-led groups to increase our involvement and active presence across both the campus and the broader community.

At the heart of our department's ethos is a steadfast dedication to serving our campus community—faculty, staff, and students alike—in any way possible. I am eager to share a summary of our current initiatives, addressing the concerns and questions raised.

Our approach to student engagement is dynamic, as we continually seek opportunities for partnership and collaboration. I am enthusiastic about participating in and hosting events such as Coffee with Cops, Chat with the Chief, Pizza with the Police, and Cones with Cops, to foster open communication and community spirit.

I have committed to speaking at numerous events, including new student orientations and tours for prospective students, as part of our proactive engagement strategy. Additionally, we actively promote the Rave Guardian App and encourage students to provide their cell numbers for GC Alerts, ensuring they stay informed through various channels.

To enhance our holistic approach to public safety, GCSU DPS is exploring various engagement strategies, including the SNAP Program, Student Auxiliary Force, and Student Police Academy, aiming to identify the most effective methods for our unique campus environment.

In our pursuit to strengthen our team, we prioritize hiring individuals who not only meet the required qualifications but also embody the right qualities for our community-focused approach. Amidst a national public safety recruitment and retention crisis, our efforts to increase visibility and approachability on campus are more critical than ever.

Our certified officers are eager to offer RAD Self Defense Training, Situational Awareness, Human/Sex Trafficking Awareness, and CRASE (Active Shooter) courses. However, student participation remains our most significant challenge.



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Recent initiatives have also included significant upgrades to our camera systems, enhancing our monitoring capabilities, and the introduction of more controlled access points to bolster security. The upgrade and expansion of our Emergency Blue Light Phone system across campus further exemplify our commitment to safety.

Internally, we've undertaken a comprehensive audit to streamline operations, initiated a New Supervisor FTO program, and developed a strategic plan aligned with the President's 2030 Imagine Strategic Plan. Our mission, vision, core values, and ethics have been revisited and revitalized to reflect our dedication to excellence and community service.

Our efforts extend beyond our campus borders, as we've fostered strong collaborations with local and partner agencies to share resources, intelligence, and training opportunities. While we've made significant strides, we recognize that continuous improvement and growth are essential. With your support and collaboration, we are confident in our ability to further enhance our community's safety and well-being.

Should you have any questions or if there's anything more we can do to support you, the SGA, or Student Life, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Wesley S. Hardin
Director of Public Safety

