

TU police superintendent takes charge

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Jon R. Barnwell officially begins his first day as the new superintendent of the Tulane University Police Department today (Jan. 17). But he actually started work a week early, and has nearly completed his first mission: streamlining the police forces on the university's campuses.



Jon R. Barnwell says Tulane deserves the latest progressive policing strategies to make the university a safe place to study, live and work. The entire university community needs to pitch in to ensure safety, he says. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Two police chiefs will report to Barnwell: one on the uptown campus and the other for the health sciences campuses.

"I wasn't afraid to get started early," Barnwell says. "The safety of our community is that important to me. When you have this type of concern come up, you need to get in, roll up your sleeves and provide some guidance to the administration as to which direction we need to go in."

Barnwell was referring to a press conference held on Friday (Jan. 13), during which New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu sought to allay fears about crime in various parts of the city.

This past weekend, [TUPD](#) extended the perimeter of policing the neighborhoods surrounding the uptown campus by several blocks, bringing in six additional officers. Officers on foot patrol wore yellow reflective vests to enhance visibility, primarily on Broadway, Maple and Calhoun streets. Barnwell intends to establish safe pedestrian corridors in the uptown neighborhoods.

He will be meeting with student groups, listening to feedback and ideas, and continuing a campus initiative started last semester by the Division of Student Affairs.

“It's up to us to do everything within our power to protect the Tulane community ? they deserve that,” Barnwell says.

He has 15 years of experience in campus law enforcement, management and police administration. He was deputy chief of police at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., after rising through the ranks from patrol officer. He received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice/criminology from Mount Olive College in North Carolina.