

Commentary: Recently, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 224 that authorized a one-time salary stipend for eligible law enforcement across the state for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. While the legislature acknowledged the “important and vital work” across all sectors of the criminal justice system across the state, the Act limits the eligibility of the salary stipends to “the most vital law enforcement officers.” Consequently, university campus police officers, who are also state-certified police officers, are ineligible for this stipend. The UA Little Rock campus police are responsible for not only the safety of those on main campus, but also have concurrent jurisdiction with the Little Rock Police Department for Fair Park Avenue, University Avenue, and Asher Avenue. Finally, UA Little Rock was named as the safest college campus in the state by Your Local Security’s 2021 Safest College Campuses in America Report. The continued safety of this community relies in part on a fully staffed and supported campus police force.

Resolution to Commend the UA Little Rock Campus Police and Recommendation for use of Institutional Funds to Provide a One-time Salary Stipend

Whereas the UA Little Rock Campus Police are expertly trained, state-certified police officers;

Whereas this unit is responsible for ensuring the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and surrounding neighborhoods, Fair Park Blvd., University Avenue, and Asher Avenue;

Whereas our campus police are committed to excellence and building trust throughout our campus community as demonstrated by UA Little Rock being identified as the safest college campus in the state for 2021;

Whereas our campus police serve alongside and have concurrent jurisdiction with Little Rock Police Department due to the campus location within the city of Little Rock;

Therefore, be it resolved that we commend all of our colleagues in the UA Little Rock Campus Safety unit for continued excellence in service; and

Be it further resolved that the UA Little Rock Staff Senate recommend that Chancellor Drale authorize institutional funding to provide the campus police officers a stipend equivalent to those received by their city and state police colleagues.