May 11, 2011

Dear Rensselaer student:

I am writing to alert you to a press release by the Troy Police Department, Wednesday, May 11, and reported in the Troy Record. The press release is intended to alert Troy residents that the Police Department will be stepping up its enforcement of quality of life issues in its neighborhoods effective immediately, especially in the Beman Park and Hillside neighborhoods. In a further development, Troy is initiating a Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Tip Line, available 24/7, for residents to phone in issues affecting their neighborhoods. SIU will respond to and investigate tips as quickly as possible.

Please be alert to this initiative in the coming weeks and understand that Troy Police are taking an “active and pro-arrest attitude” to address issues related to any misconduct of Rensselaer students who live off campus.

I am taking this opportunity to remind you to respect quality of life for residents in your neighborhoods, including fellow students also residing in these same neighborhoods. Living off campus, you are in the position of being both a college student and a city resident. It is always important – not just now – to conduct yourself in a respectful and civil manner as a Rensselaer student and Troy resident.

Let me be clear that the majority of RPI students are, and continue to be, good neighbors and citizens. There are, however, some students who choose not to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner affecting the quality of life of the majority of Rensselaer students.

Rensselaer supports efforts by the City to improve the quality of life in all its neighborhoods, especially those close to the main campus where many of our students, faculty and staff live. We ask for your help to work with us on that effort and to continue to exercise good judgment and common sense. It is Institute policy – from the student level to senior leadership – to not only work hard to prevent quality of life issues from arising, but to contribute to the entire Troy community.

Let me remind you again that an arrest is a very serious issue. An arrest is something that may have long-term impact on future opportunities as you advance in your careers after you graduate from Rensselaer. We know many Rensselaer graduates go on to successful, fruitful careers where they make a significant contribution to our world. It is our intent that you, too, have similar future opportunities.

Thank you in advance for reading my note and for your ongoing efforts in this area. Please accept my continued best wishes in your studies.

Mark Smith
Dean of Students