



Neighborhood Advisory Committee Issue Paper #7: Undie Run

Overview: The Undie Run occurs twice per year, each semester during finals week, and consists of students running in their underwear through the Plaza. Neighbors have issued many complaints about the event itself and regarding inappropriate and inconvenient student behavior at all hours of the night as students go to and return from the event. This event is not sanctioned by Chapman University or the City of Orange, but the University does provide resource staffing and support for security and any damages.

Identified Opportunities/Options

- **Create a small task force to brainstorm solution-oriented actions.**
 - The Task Force has met twice and has made recommendations as to plausible solutions that could possibly be implemented to reduce the impact of the Undie Run.
- **Connect with other campus police chiefs and town & gown organizations across the country to find out how they handle events like this.**
 - Chapman's Department of Public Safety and the Office of Community Relations made extensive outreach to several universities with Undie Run events.
 - UC Irvine – Enlists the help of radio stations (like Jack FM) as a draw for students to come back to campus after the event concludes. Students are interviewed on live radio and the station also strategically gives out t-shirts after the event to encourage students to be covered.
 - UCLA – Tried to eliminate their Undie Run event and strictly enforce rules/regulations surrounding the event. This resulted in several lawsuits being waged against the University and the Undie Run continues.
 - Cal State Fullerton – According to CSUF, their Undie Run event is very disorganized and they are also actively looking for tips on strategies that might be able to curb the event on their campus.
 - Colorado State University – Issued a University-wide decree that the Undie Run be stopped. Students organized on their own and showed up anyways in an uncontrolled area and event.
- **Look in to the possibility of changing the route.**
 - According to Orange PD, keeping students on the current route is the safest option for them during this event.

- **Host an event on campus during the Undie Run event day/ time that encourages students to stay on campus (like a concert or a festival).**
 - Chapman has attempted to do this in the past and during those years, there were more aggravated incident reports than any past years of the Run's existence. Also, in doing this, it encouraged students to party later into the night as they would attend the event first and spread out into the community afterwards.
- **Change the time of the Undie Run to begin at 10:00 p.m. instead of midnight so that students will be returning home at a more reasonable hour.**
 - According to Orange PD, they would prefer a later starting time so that fewer businesses were open and there would be less traffic in the Plaza, thereby reducing the risk of additional persons being involved in the event.
- **Formalize the route of Chapman Public Safety shuttles that night to encourage students to get a ride to campus before the run and/or to get a safe ride home post-event.**
 - Although this option needs to be studied more, initial research into this option seems promising. Chapman can use two of its shuttles, and an additional eight fleet vans to transport students to and from the event. With each pick-up, this would remove 100+ students from the neighborhoods. The shuttles and vans should be driven by someone not from Public Safety, as students are leery of calling them for a ride when they have been drinking. According to Annabell Liao, president of the Student Government Association, students she had talked to seemed in favor of this idea.

Committee Feedback

- Schroeder – Upon research of other similar runs on college campuses, events like this are hard to eliminate.
 - Task Force research shows the same.
- Jensen – The spillover of revelers from Undie Run is no different than during Labor Day weekend when the International Street Fair takes place.
- Lee and Nichols – The Undie Run itself is not necessarily the problem, but the activities that go on before and after the event.
- Frankel – Chapman should sanction the Undie Run and hold it on campus.
 - Neither the City, nor Chapman wants to sanction the event. The support and resources used to control the event is for the safety of the community and students.
- Schroeder – The community needs to know how to handle student's inappropriate behavior when it happens in their neighborhood.
 - An education plan for the neighbors is also an important element to implement and should be looked into more.
- Jensen – Since 40+ officers are working the event, consider having them stay on for overtime to combat the issues neighbors are having after the event.

Questions/Answers

- Can runs be more orderly if operated by permit, similarly to parades on public streets?
 - According to OPD, it is doubtful the City would issue a permit for this type of event.
- Is insurance purchased to cover the Undie Run?
 - No. It is highly unlikely that there would be one student who would like to take out a policy for the entire event.
- If the Undie Run was held on Chapman's campus, would it still be an issue?
 - Absolutely. The problem truly exists with what happens before and after the event, not during the event itself which is a well-controlled, 15-minute event through the streets.
- Can we transition this event into a charity-focused event?
 - It's possible. The Undie Run used to have a focus on giving back, but would require some additional exploration to see if this might curb the impact of the event as a whole.
- Can we get analytics from Orange Police Department on the number of Undie Run calls close to campus pre- and post-event?
 - According to OPD, they ran statistics on the calls from the Undie Run nights from 2013 through spring of 2016 between the boundaries of Walnut & Palmyra and Schaffer and Cypress. Overall trends included several calls over the years around the area of 470 N. Glassell. A majority of the calls came in between 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. and were considered "disturbing the peace" calls due to students being loud while walking through neighborhoods, rather than calls for loud parties. In 2016, a majority of these calls for service came in north of Maple close to the intersections of Glassell/Walnut and Schaffer/Maple.
- What portion of the Undie Run cost does Chapman incur?
 - Chapman University pays for the overtime of Orange Police Department officers and for the fencing located around the Plaza.

Recommendations/Actions

- The Undie Run Task Force has been created. Membership includes Jack Raubolt, Colleen Wood, Randy Burba, and Craig Lee from Chapman and also includes Dave Nichols (from Orange PD) and Annabell Liao (SGA President).
 - The Task Force will further communicate using email. In-person meetings will only take place if necessary.
- Launch a proactive education/outreach plan towards students.
 - The Task Force agreed that more education was needed and targeting the student body before the event takes place is a valuable strategy to take. Options discussed included bringing in speakers from OPD to student organizations and the senate to discuss the impact of the Undie Run; creating a YouTube video in a PSA-type format for easy and widespread exposure amongst students; and creating some sort of visual presentation on the

impact of the Undie Run (number of OPD officers, number of Student Affairs employees, etc.).