

An initiative to have University of Cincinnati police officers check in regularly at residence halls has been suspended indefinitely after facing opposition from residents and student senators.

Under the initiative, armed UCPD officers would have visited the lobbies of every residence hall for 10 to 15 minutes about five times each day.

The plan was initially described as a way to improve community engagement and student safety when the university first announced it an email to all residents back in March, according to Residence Hall Association (RHA) president Gordon Goodwin.

However, the initiative was a cause for concern to many residents, particularly those of color, according to a Student Senate resolution bill opposing the initiative.

The bill, which was passed by the Senate on October 2nd, alleges that the initiative would infringe on students' privacy and was not accurately communicated to the community by UCPD.

"In order to advance their agenda, this initiative was continuously mischaracterized which only furthered the miscommunication and transparency issues which we were trying to address from the beginning," wrote At-Large Senator Kish Richardson, the author of the bill.

The bill was also endorsed by the RHA, a student-run governing body for the residence halls, according to Goodwin.

"While RHA supports UCPD's desire to build better community relations, lack of communication has marred this program's community outreach aim from the onset," wrote Goodwin in an email.

Despite this, Goodwin writes that the university has admitted to past mistakes and has an open dialogue with student organizations.

A committee of students including Kish Richardson and RHA's director of social justice, Nia Thomas, has remained engaged in talks with members of the administration, according to Goodwin and Richardson.

The administration members involved with the committee include Police Chief Maris Herold, Dean of Students Juan Guardia, and Assistant Dean of Students Daniel Cummins, according to Richardson.

A UCPD spokesperson said they could not answer a request for comment until next week.