University City District
CLEAN AND SAFE
Maintaining Clean and Safe Streets

Since University City District’s founding in 1997, we have worked to maintain clean and safe streets throughout the district.

Public Safety Ambassadors are a highly visible deterrent to crime, patrolling University City streets each day from 8AM to 3AM. They keep the streets safe by working closely with security and police departments from local institutions, as well as the Philadelphia Police Sub-station co-located with UCD’s office. Our Public Space Maintenance (PSM) employees work seven days a week, supplementing City services and partnering with local residents to clean and enhance the public realm.

Together, the Clean and Safe crews provide a secure and welcoming environment for residents, employees, students and visitors. In partnership with other agencies, these programs have had a profound impact on the neighborhood, contributing to a drastic reduction in crime throughout the district.

Our Coverage Area
Uniformed in black and yellow, UCD’s Public Safety Bike Ambassadors patrol the streets from 8am to 3am, 7 days a week. These unarmed officers are equipped with two-way radios that are routed through a central dispatch system, allowing them to stay in contact with police. They keep the street safe on foot and on bike, and act as a visual deterrent to crime by working in cooperation with the Philadelphia, Amtrak, SEPTA, Penn and Drexel Police departments, and security forces from Penn, Drexel and the University of the Sciences. They provide walking escorts and vehicular services (assistance with jumpstarts and lock-outs), and track public hazards such as potholes, graffiti and problem street signs. UCD partners with the homeless non-profit Project HOME, and has trained Public Safety Ambassadors to handle outreach to homeless individuals in the district.

UCD works closely with neighborhood groups and institutions through public safety fairs and campaigns designed to educate the community. The Ambassadors are also onsite at all of UCD’s community events – like Movies in Clark Park or the Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll – to engage local residents and ensure community safety.
Each Ambassador receives training in the following:

- Customer Service
- Bike Patrol
- Situational Awareness
- Radio Communication
- CPR/AED/First Aid
- Tourniquets
- Managing Of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB)
- NARCAN (Naloxone)
- Homeless Outreach
- Mental Health First Aid
- Pedestrian Safety
- Crowd Control
- Mass Causality Incidents
- University City and Philadelphia history, attractions and amenities

Decline in Serious Crimes Since 1998:

Source: Philadelphia Police Department Statistics, as reported to UCD. Excludes homicides due to very low incidence rate.
Clean streets, attractive open spaces, and well-maintained buildings and roads all contribute to a high quality of life and allow University City to thrive. Our Public Space Maintenance (PSM) program works diligently to continually improve the appearance of our community.

Our PSM employees clean and enhance more than 160 University City commercial and residential blocks, and maintain 125 public trash cans throughout the district. PSM services supplement City services and include sidewalk and curb line sweeping, beautification projects and assistance with neighborhood events.

The 20-person team uses sophisticated street sweeping equipment for trash collection. Heavily-trafficked commercial streets and areas adjacent to institutional campuses receive daily sweeping, while other areas with a high density of rental properties are cleaned once or twice weekly. PSM also works in tandem with Safety Ambassadors to remove graffiti from local businesses, homes, and public spaces, removing approximately 800 unsightly tags every year. In cooperation with the City, we also assist neighbors, block captains, and volunteers by organizing multiple community cleanups per year. UCD partners with the City of Philadelphia and 311 for any problems we can’t address internally.

### Annual Average Public Space Maintenance Stats

- **150,735** bags of trash collected
- **785** graffiti tags removed
- **34** tires collected
- **20** pairs of shoes on wires removed
- **160** commercial and residential blocks cleaned
- **42,000** hours spent cleaning the community
**Meet Our Team**

“Ambassadors out there in uniform are making people safer. If they don’t feel safe, that’s what people are going to remember from an interaction with an ambassador. It’s about soft skills, being approachable, and taking initiative.”

**Shaun Loadholt, Corporal Supervisor/Dispatcher**

“I work at UCD because as someone who grew up in the neighborhood I’ve seen the way things have improved. People feel safer because of the ambassadors—Baltimore Avenue used to be dangerous and now it’s one of my favorite spots to hang out. I love that I get to help people in the community, and I get to know them, too.”

**Tuhran Freeman, Community Service Ambassador**

“A lot of people really appreciate us, and see what we do every day. You’re interacting with everyone in the community. I’ve found over the years, I don’t just clean; just my presence – in our uniforms – it provides another form of security.”

**Kevin Stuver, Public Space Maintenance**

“The safety program really gives people a sense of security, knowing that we’re out there, providing extra eyes on the street. We get a lot of thank you’s, people say ‘we appreciate you all being out here, we love what you do, you don’t know how much this means to us.’ I just love the energy I get from all those interactions.”

**Shamara Williams, Corporal Supervisor/Dispatcher**

“I’ve been here almost 21 years. We keep the neighborhood safe, we talk to people, we keep it clean - we’re trying to boost up the neighborhood. A lot of people told me the neighborhood has changed because it’s clean and it’s safe, and I get compliments about how good we’re doing outside. I love what I do and I’m happy about it!”

**Debra Ross, Public Space Maintenance**
Need assistance?
For walking escorts, jump-starts, or vehicle lock-outs, call 215-387-3942 between 10AM and 3AM, 7 days a week.

Additional services
Interested in additional cleaning, special security checks, log book signing inside businesses, closing hour stand-downs and more? Learn more about our fee-for-service options.

For more information
Please contact:
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