

**THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

**PREVENTION PROGRAM**

In accordance with the University's commitment to the prevention of workplace violence, Queensborough Community College adopts the following as its Workplace Violence Prevention Program (the "Program"):

1. Purpose

The University's Workplace Violence Prevention Program provides information to the College community about preventing and responding to incidents of workplace violence at the College's worksites and facilities and seeks to develop programs which will prevent or reduce the likelihood of threats or acts of workplace violence. The Program seeks to ensure that any incident, complaint, or report of workplace violence is taken seriously and dealt with appropriately. The Program implements the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 28, 2011. As set forth therein, workplace violence is defined as any physical assault or acts of aggressive behavior occurring where an employee performs any work-related duty in the course of his or her employment, including but not limited to:

- i. An attempt or threat, whether verbal or physical, to inflict physical injury upon an employee;
- ii. Any intentional display of force that would give an employee reason to fear or expect bodily harm;
- iii. Intentional and wrongful physical contact with an employee without his or her consent that entails some injury; and
- iv. Stalking an employee in a manner that may cause the employee to fear for his or her physical safety and health when such stalking has arisen through and in the course of employment.

2. Scope

All College employees are required to comply with the Program. In addition, since students and visitors to the College are required to conduct themselves in conformity with existing law, employees who observe or experience students or visitors engaging in violent or threatening behavior should follow the procedures in the Program for reporting such behavior.

3. Workplace Violence Advisory Team ("WVAT")

- a. The WVAT reports directly to the College President and consists of members designated by the President.

- b. The WVAT Chair, selected by the President, sets the times and agendas for meetings and establishes sub-committees, as necessary, to fulfill the WVAT responsibilities set forth herein and in sections 4, 7 and 12.
- c. The Chair and members of the WVAT and their contact information are listed in Appendix I.
- d. The WVAT will coordinate the Workplace Violence Prevention training at the Colleges.

#### 4. Risk Assessment and Evaluation Process

- a. On an annual basis, the WVAT will:
  - i. Examine the prior year's relevant records that concern workplace violence incidents to identify patterns in the type and cause of injuries.
  - ii. Assess relevant policies, work practices, and work procedures that may impact the Workplace Violence Prevention Program.
  - iii. Review survey responses received from employees of the College. Survey forms are available to employees on the College's website and in hard-copy at the College's Office of Public Safety and Office of Human Resources. Completed survey forms are to be forwarded to the Director of Public Safety, as the physical site evaluation team leader.
- b. The WVAT will conduct a physical site evaluation of the College's workplace to determine the presence of factors that may place employees at risk of workplace violence. Each authorized employee representative organization with employees at the College will be given advance notice, in writing, from the Vice President for Administration of the date(s) and time(s) of the site visit(s). Each authorized employee organization may designate a representative to participate in the site visit(s) by notifying the WVAT Chair in writing of the designated representative. In addition to the authorized employee representative(s), an employee may also request to participate directly in the site visit for his/her work area by contacting the WVAT Chair. The authorized employee representative(s) will be provided with incident reports (without names) for the previous year. The authorized employee representative(s) may submit to the WVAT Chair any comments regarding situations in the workplace that pose a threat of workplace violence.
- c. Following the physical site evaluation, the WVAT will prepare a report of the findings, including a list of the high risk factors identified during the physical site evaluation and recommendations on appropriate work practice control measures to address identified risk factors. The report will be submitted to the President for appropriate action. Copies of the report will be made available, upon request, to employee(s), their authorized representatives(s), and the New York State Department of Labor.

- d. Physical site evaluation/risk assessment evaluations will be conducted after an incident of workplace violence, as needed and as identified by the Department of Labor, or if it is determined that a significant trend of workplace violence is identified.

5. High Risk Locations/Risk Factors – Routine physical site evaluations/risk assessment evaluations are conducted.

Queensborough Community College conducted a Campus-Wide Walk-through on March 23, 2011. Representatives from each union were invited to participate in the site evaluation of the campus. Subsequently, informal walk throughs have been regularly conducted by the Vice President for Administration, Chief Superintendent, Director of Public Safety and Dean of Human Resources and Labor Relations. Factors that might place an employee at risk include but are not limited to:

- Offices that handle the exchange of money, including cash, checks, money orders and credit card receipts: Bursar; Controller's Office; Student Accounting Services, Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC).
- Offices that handle issues stressful to students, such as the Counseling Center, Registrar, Student Accounts, Financial Aid Office, Academic Advising Offices, Office of Services for Students with Disabilities and Offices of the Deans.
- Offices that handle issues stressful to faculty and staff, such as the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Faculty and Staff Relations and the Affirmative Action Office.
- Work sites containing employees who work alone or in small groups: academic offices, faculty offices, administrative offices, areas of the Medical Arts Building, including the student massage therapy clinic, the Mezzanine level of the RFK Gymnasium, offices containing electronic media and equipment where media technicians and IT support work.
- Work sites containing employees who work late at night or early in the morning or on weekends: Entire campus for custodial staff and Public Safety staff, Library, offices in the Administration Emergency telephones in the building hallways are routinely checked. Emergency phones have been installed in parking lot six and the bus stop lot. Recommendations to increase visibility of individuals who might pose potential threats by installing convex security mirrors on the basement level of the Medical Arts Building and at the Mezzanine level of the RFK Gymnasium have been acted on. Additional lighting has been added where lighting is needed, particularly in parking lots.

The outside light timer for Parking Lot Six has since been adjusted to operate during the hours of dusk through dawn. The Buildings and Grounds and Public Safety departments have been, and will continue to monitor and repair all lighting both inside and outside the campus.

The Public Safety Department's report of incidents on campus are reviewed regularly. Reported incidents of verbal confrontations and/or threats have been acted upon appropriately.

The College utilizes the following control measures to eliminate or reduce workplace violence hazards:

- i. Engineering Controls.
  - i. Bullet Proof Glass (Bursar)
  - ii. Double doors with locks in Bursar office entrance.
  - iii. Video Cameras – Exterior of campus to include parking lots, “Great Lawn”, Science Quad, Mall areas, building exteriors; Interior of campus to include Science Cafeteria, Oakland Art Gallery, Student Union, Library, Bursar, Service Building, Loading Dock, KHRC.
  - iv. Outside Light timers in Parking lots set to operate from dusk until dawn, as well as motion sensitive lights
  - v. Convex security mirrors in basement level of the Medical Arts Building and the Mezzanine level of the RFK Gymnasium.
  - vi. Emergency (Red) Telephones located in corridors of all buildings and in Parking Lots with auto dialing to Public Safety Dispatch.
  - vii. Safes (Bursar, QPAC, Food Services, Library, Financial Aid, Registrar, Counseling).
  - viii. Use of magnetometers (metal detectors) and hand-held wands for Special Events (Parties, etc).
  - ix. Public Address system in interior building hallways and exterior voice alert system.
  - x. QCC computer alert system.
  - xi. Emergency speaker and audible alarm in elevators.
  - xii. Direct dialing capabilities to Public Safety from campus office phones.
- ii. Administrative or Work Practice Controls.
  - i. Public Safety Officers patrol both interior and exterior areas of campus on foot, by motor vehicle and/or bicycle on a continuous basis.
  - ii. In the evenings, Public Safety Officers continually make rounds through buildings occupied by employees, to check in on them and make certain that doors are locked.

- iii. Public Safety Officers are present in high stress offices at the commencement of each semester (Financial Aid, Bursar, Registrar)
- iv. “Red” emergency phones in building hallway and outdoor emergency telephones are checked regularly to insure they are all in working order.
- v. In order to promote a safe and secure environment on campus, Public Safety Officers conduct a continuous inspection of campus facilities and grounds, reporting to the appropriate campus department(s) lighting outages and other areas in need of maintenance and/or repair.
- vi. Employees are encouraged to advise Public Safety Office when they are working late and are leaving the building late at night;
- vii. Public Safety Officers patrol parking lots in the evening and night time hours paying particular attention to remote and low lighting areas.
- viii. The Public Safety Department provides an Escort Service where officers can be requested to accompany members of the college community in traveling from one campus location to another with a greater sense of security.
- ix. E-mail reminders of good safety practices will be sent out to employees and are contained in several department publications as well as on the Department of Public Safety website.

iii. Personal Protective Equipment

- i. Bullet-Proof Vests are worn by all Public Safety Officers on patrol.
- ii. Hand-held radios are assigned to all Public Safety Officers on patrol in order that on-site assistance can be summoned immediately, and if deemed necessary, off-site emergency assistance can be requested.
- iii. Cell Phones (Essential Administrative Staff, IT, Public Safety, Buildings and Grounds)

6. Employee Information and Training

All employees must participate in training on the risks of workplace violence in their workplace at the time of initial employment and at least annually thereafter. The employee training and information program includes information regarding how to locate the Policy and Program as well as survey forms.

The College provides training to its employees. The training program addresses the following essential topics:

- a. An overview and definition of workplace violence;
- b. The College's commitment to providing a safe workplace;
- c. Instructions regarding how to obtain a copy of the written Policy and Program;
- d. A listing of significant identified risk factors;
- e. Techniques on how to recognize and avoid potentially violent situations, including de-escalation techniques;
- f. How employees can protect themselves and how employees can suggest improvements to the Program;
- g. The importance of reporting incidents and how to report such incidents;
- h. Where employees can seek assistance during a dangerous situation; and
- i. Resources, such as trauma counseling, that may be available to employees after an incident has occurred.

Additional training will be conducted as necessary and as determined by the needs of the College.

#### 7. Reporting Process/Procedures to Report Incidents of Workplace Violence

In order to maintain a safe working environment, incidents of workplace violence must be reported promptly to a supervisor and/or the Office of Public Safety. The phone number of the College's Office of Public Safety is (718) 631-6320 or (718) 631-6384. Members of the College community are also encouraged to report other behavior they believe may lead to potential workplace violence. After an incident occurs or upon receipt of a complaint, an investigation will be conducted by the Office of Public Safety. Complaints involving the Office of Public Safety will be investigated by the Office of Human Resources.

- a. The College will use a form maintained by the University's Office of Public Safety to record incidents of workplace violence. The College Office of Public Safety will maintain all records of initial reports and the results of any investigative reports relating to Workplace Violence at the College. As set forth therein, investigative reports must include:
  - i. Workplace location where the incident occurred;
  - ii. Time of day/shift when the incident occurred;
  - iii. A detailed description of the incident, including events leading up to the incident and how the incident ended;
  - iv. Names and job titles of employees involved;
  - v. Name or other identifier of other individual(s) involved;
  - vi. Nature and extent of injuries arising from the incident; and
  - vii. Names of witnesses.
- b. The WVAT reviews the investigation results of incidents and complaints, determines whether there is a violation of the Policy and provides a report to the President.

- c. The WVAT, with the participation of the authorized employee representative(s), conducts a review of the Campus Workplace Violence Incidents Report at least annually to identify trends in the types of incidents in the workplace and reviews the effectiveness of the mitigating actions taken.

#### 8. Confidentiality of Certain Information

Nothing in this Program requires the disclosure to any person or entity, other than to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor as directed by the New York State Labor Law, of information otherwise kept confidential for security reasons, such as information that if disclosed may:

- i. Interfere with law enforcement investigations or judicial proceedings;
- ii. Deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication;
- iii. Identify a confidential source or disclose confidential information relating to a criminal investigation;
- iv. Reveal criminal investigative techniques or procedures, except routine techniques and procedures; or
- v. Endanger the life or safety of any person.

#### 9. Report of Violations of the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and Program

Any employee or authorized employee representative who believes that the College's Workplace Violence Prevention Program is in violation of CUNY's Workplace Violence Prevention Policy, New York State Department of Labor Regulation Section 800.6 and New York State Labor Law Section 27(b), should bring their concerns to the attention of the proper authorities.

Events involving the threat of imminent danger should be immediately brought to the attention of the College's Department of Public Safety.

Events relating to concerns of other types of reportable incidents should be reported as detailed in Paragraph 7, above, and brought to the attention of the University's Senior University Executive Director of Human Resources Strategic Planning, 205 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017.

If a matter has been brought to the proper College authority and the College has had a reasonable opportunity to correct the activity, policy or practice, the matter has not been resolved, and an employee or authorized employee representative still believes that serious violation of the program remains, the employee or authorized employee representative may request an inspection by notifying the Commissioner of Labor of the alleged violation. This notice to the Commissioner must be in writing and shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice and shall be signed by the employee or authorized employee representative in compliance with New York State Labor Law Section 27(b) and its implementing Regulations.

## 10. Retaliation

No employee is subject to criticism, reprisal, retaliation or disciplinary action by the College for good faith reporting pursuant to the Program. Individuals who make false and malicious complaints of workplace violence, as opposed to complaints that, even if erroneous, are made in good faith, may be subject to disciplinary or other appropriate action.

## 11. Recordkeeping

All recordkeeping and reporting shall be made in compliance with the applicable law and regulation (currently New York Labor Law Sections 27-a and 27-b and 12 NYCRR Part 800) and the Policy and Program.

## 12. Program Effectiveness and Evaluation/Post-Incident Response

At least annually or after serious incidents, the WVAT evaluates the effectiveness of the Workplace Violence Prevention Program, including post-incident responses and evaluation processes. The review focuses on incident trends and the effectiveness of the control measures taken by the College. The review also assesses whether the reporting and recordkeeping systems are effective in collecting relevant information.



## **APPENDIX I**

### **Queensborough Community College Workplace Violence Advisory Team**

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Resources 24-Hour Hotline

CUNY Work/Life Deer Oaks

Helpline: (855) 492-3633

Email: [eap@deeroaks.com](mailto:eap@deeroaks.com)

Website: [www.deeroaks.com](http://www.deeroaks.com)

**KEY CONTACT INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC CAMPUS RESOURCES**

**Campus  
Office of  
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**KEY CONTACT INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC CAMPUS RESOURCES**

**Workplace  
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(WVAT)**

**Queensborough Community College  
Workplace Violence Advisory Team**

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	Pantaleo, Josephine Chief Diversity Officer, Affirmative Action/Pluralist & Diversity/Compliance Office, Director (718) 631-6391 <a href="mailto:JPantaleo@qcc.cuny.edu">JPantaleo@qcc.cuny.edu</a>
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	Delgado, Belinda, Esq. (Domestic Violence Liaison) Title IX Officer (718) 281-5755 <a href="mailto:BDelgado@qcc.cuny.edu">BDelgado@qcc.cuny.edu</a>
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<b>Instructions on accessing your College's Workplace Violence Prevention Program</b>	<p>QCC Workplace Violence Prevention Program</p> <p><a href="http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/hrlr/docs/WorkplaceViolencePrevention.pdf">http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/hrlr/docs/WorkplaceViolencePrevention.pdf</a></p>
<b>Additional Campus Resources and Contacts</b>	<p>Josephine Pantaleo Chief Diversity Officer (718) 631-6391 <a href="mailto:JPantaleo@qcc.cuny.edu">JPantaleo@qcc.cuny.edu</a></p> <p>Glenna Lash HR Manager (718) 631-6356 <a href="mailto:GLash@qcc.cuny.edu">GLash@qcc.cuny.edu</a></p> <p>Belinda Delgado, Esq. Title IX Coordinator &amp; Domestic Violence Liaison 718-281-5755 <a href="mailto:BDelgado@qcc.cuny.edu">BDelgado@qcc.cuny.edu</a></p> <p>CUNY Work/Life Deer Oaks Helpline: (855) 492-3633 Email: <a href="mailto:eap@deeroaks.com">eap@deeroaks.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.deeroaks.com">www.deeroaks.com</a></p>

**KEY CONTACT INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC CAMPUS RESOURCES**

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**Office of Public Safety**  
 (718) 631-6320

**Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence**  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/home/home.shtml>

**NYPD Domestic Violence Prevention**  
[http://home2.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime\\_prevention/domestic\\_violence.shtml](http://home2.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/domestic_violence.shtml)

**NYC Family Justice Center:** <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/help/fjc.shtml>  
 In Queens: 126-02 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens (718) 575-4500

**NYS Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 942-6906**  
 in NYC: (800) 621-HOPE (4673) or dial 311 - TTY: 1-866-604-5350

**NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence** <http://www.opdv.ny.gov/>

**Queens Family Center** – (718) 575-4545

**CUNY Work/Life Deer Oaks**  
<http://legacy.deeroaks.com/admin/index.asp>

**QUESTIONS?**

Name	Title/Dept	Phone	Email	Hours of Availability
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