



# UMB Police and Public Safety

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## Letters from the Chief 2020-2021

### Back-to-School Campus Safety

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Dear UMB Community:

Welcome - whether virtually or in person - to another academic year at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Since 2016, I've had the pleasure of meeting many members of our UMB community, and I am now proud to serve as interim chief of the UMB Police Department (UMBPD).

For those returning to campus, our Safe Walk service continues to be available 24/7 by calling 410-706-6882 (6-6882 from a campus phone). Our police and security officers are wearing masks and maintaining proper physical distancing for your safety and theirs. Please don't hesitate to call - we're here to get you to your destination safely.

While our Safe Ride service is suspended, I am working with UMB leadership to determine alternate services, such as discounted rides on Lyft, and will send an update when more information is available.

Now also is a good time to brush up on safety tips, whether you're working or learning at UMB or from home:

**Put cellphones and headphones away.** When you step outside, this simple distraction can make you and your phone easy targets. I like to say, "Don't WebEx and walk!"

**Be aware of your surroundings.** Stick to major streets and avoid alleys. Walk in groups or call for a Safe Walk. If you ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe, go inside a building and tell a security officer.

**Don't text and drive.** Don't Zoom and zoom. Whatever way you want to say it - put your phone away, slow down, and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

**Lock your valuables, vehicles, and bikes.** Never leave valuable items unattended. Keep desirable items in your vehicle's trunk or out of sight. Lock your vehicle, even when you're in the car.

**If you see something, say something!** Our police and security officers can be easily found on campus, but we can't be everywhere at once. Help keep UMB safe - our police communications operators are available day or night at 410-706-6882, or you can use one of our 31 blue light phones located throughout campus. And in an emergency, always call 911!

As we all adapt to and evolve with the COVID-19 pandemic, UMBPD remains committed to our community's safety. We've increased the number of security officers on campus, especially during the high-traffic morning and afternoon commutes. Take a moment to say hello, and please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Thomas Leone**  
*UMB Interim Chief of Police*

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