

# Report on Parking in the University Townhouses

Submitted by Rob Sobelman, President and Jenny Dorland, Vice-President

On behalf of the Student Government Association, Colgate University - October 30, 2007

## Introduction

This report includes data, observations, analysis, and recommendations that have been compiled throughout the semester from ongoing conversations with many students including the SGA Leadership, SGA Senate, and the residents of the University Townhouses. The recommendations have been informed by discussions with Residential Life Associate Director James Amato, Residential Life Director Jennifer Adams, and Campus Safety Director Gary Bean. This report is offered as a clear statement of recommendations from the SGA and as guidance to those who have administrative control over residential facilities and parking at Colgate University.

## Observations

### **Observation #1:**

The residents of the University Townhouses have frequent difficulty finding a spot to park their car in the entire complex at various times of the day. It is difficult to visit the University Townhouses due to the notoriously overcrowded parking lot. Often residents and visitors have resorted to parking illegally causing potential risks to the safety of the residents of the University Townhouses.

### **Observation #2:**

The University Townhouses are currently home to 213 residents<sup>1</sup> and 140 of the residents own cars (or 66%).<sup>2</sup>

### **Observation #3:**

The University Townhouses have the capacity to house 275 residents.<sup>3</sup> Due to recent vacancies elsewhere on campus and difficulties marketing the University Townhouses to students, the capacity has not been met. However, there are reasonable circumstances that could lead to an increase in residents. This would likely lead to an increase in cars. If the current ownership percentage were extrapolated to approximate full capacity residency, there would be 182 cars owned by University Townhouse residents.

### **Observation #4:**

The University Townhouses currently have 132 regular parking spaces and 4 handicapped spaces.<sup>4</sup> The current parking capacity does not meet current need of residents and has no capacity for visitors. The current parking capacity will not come close to meeting potential future need and will continue to have no capacity for visitors. Additionally, the lack of adequate parking is widely known among students and is a disincentive to live in the complex.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Residential Life

<sup>2</sup> Self-reported by University Townhouse Community Leaders. See appendix for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Office of Residential Life

<sup>4</sup> Department of Campus Safety

## Recommendations

### **Recommendation #1:**

Take immediate action to estimate the cost and feasibility of adding additional parking to the large plot of undeveloped green space in the University Townhouse complex south of Townhouse 9. Utilization of only a portion of this space would be necessary to meet current and future need.

### **Recommendation #2:**

Communicate immediately, in partnership with the SGA, to the residents of the University Townhouses that there is interest in addressing the parking deficiency in the complex.

### **Recommendation #3:**

Analyze the cost and feasibility, in partnership with the SGA, and report to the residents of the University Townhouses what action (if any) will be taken to address the parking deficiency in the complex.

## Conclusion

While there are many benefits of living in the University Townhouses, this is an improvement that must be made. Marketing the University Townhouses has been a challenge for the Office of Residential Life and an ongoing parking deficiency is only going to make that process more difficult. The SGA looks forward to working with Buildings & Grounds, Residential Life, Campus Safety, and other interested administrators to continuously develop the quality of student residences on campus. The SGA hopes to help identify a feasible compromise to address the challenge discussed in this report.

## Appendix

Townhouse residential car ownership: 140

Townhouse residents: 213

(66% of residents own cars)

Residential capacity: 275

Parking capacity:

132 Regular spaces

4 Handicapped spaces

### Townhouse Vehicle Numbers - Fall 2007

(Note: The data was self-reported by University Townhouse Community Leaders.)

1A: 4	4A: 1	5B: 9	8B: 1
1B: 5	4B: 1	6A: 9	8C: 2
2A: 6	4C: 2	6B: 15	8D: 5
2B: 10	4D: 3	7A: 10	8E: 4
3A: 8	4E: 7	7B: 6	9A: 8
3B: 8	5A: 8	8A: 1	9B: 7