



Stony Brook University

Office of the President

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Dear Neighbor,

As I am sure you are aware, the business of illegal housing has raised concerns about the safety of Stony Brook students and the quality of life in the community. I personally want to assure you that I share the community's concerns.

At the outset let me state that the University fully supports Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward Romaine's efforts to crack down on illegal housing and the actions the Town is taking to break the business model that has made illegal rentals so attractive to landlords. I have designated a team of University administrators from External Relations, Student Affairs, University Police and Athletics to work in partnership with the Town on this issue.

I would like to eliminate some misperceptions that are circulating about the University and share with you the actions taken by the University to help break this cycle of improper housing practices.

CONCERN: There is a perception in the community that the University has tripled in size in recent years, and that there are not enough beds on campus to house all the students wanting rooms.

FACT: This is simply not true. The number of available on-campus beds has kept pace with the increase of students. Over the past ten years, we have increased enrollment in the area of 200 students per year. Over the next five years, enrollment is projected to increase by about 163 students per year. Over the course of this same time period, we have increased and will continue to increase on-campus housing by an average of 217 beds per year. These are verifiable numbers that show student enrollment has grown at a very modest and planned pace and that on-campus housing has increased accordingly.

CONCERN: There should be an on-campus bed for every student.

FACT: The reality is that not every student wants or needs to live on campus. First, a fair number of our students are part-time, continuing education or professional development adult students who already live in the community and attend the University simply because we provide a top-quality education near their home. A full 60 percent of our undergraduate students who live off campus live at home with their parents or their spouse. And there are many upperclass, master's and PhD students who prefer to live off campus. It would be unreasonable to mandate that every student, even every undergraduate student, live on campus.

CONCERN: The University looks the other way when students misbehave off campus.

FACT: Again, this is simply not true. While local law enforcement has the primary responsibility for responding to reports of illegal activity in the community, the University Office of Community Standards investigates complaints that are brought to our attention. Where appropriate, students are disciplined in a manner consistent with our behavioral standards. While I am not at liberty to share the details of student disciplinary actions due to federal privacy laws, rest assured the University is actively working with those students who are found to have breached the University standards.



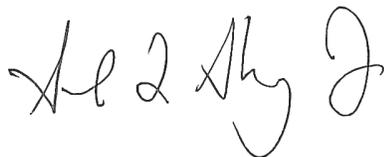
The State University
of New York

Here are the actions the University is taking:

- We are educating our students about the new Town Code provisions so that they can distinguish a legal rental from an illegal one.
- We are ensuring that only properly permitted rental listings are posted on the University off-campus housing website.
- We are prohibiting the posting of rental ads on campus bulletin boards and policing compliance on a weekly basis; this will ensure that illegal rentals are not advertised on campus.
- We are spending \$200 million to build 1,100 new beds on campus; these new beds will satisfy the need created by our projected enrollment growth.
- We are exploring construction of off-campus housing in properly zoned areas near the University.
- We launched a “Be a Good Neighbor” campaign to remind our students about appropriate off-campus behavior.
- We are sending the Town all information we receive regarding possible residential housing code violations.

I hope this letter reassures you of my personal attention to this issue. I have directed my staff to continue to work with the community and the Town to identify viable solutions regarding the issue of illegal housing. By continuing to work together, we will be able to create a safer, healthier community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Stanley Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD

President