



New Jersey College & University Public Safety Association, Inc.

2020-2021 Executive Board

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THE YEAR AHEAD (2020–2021)

In April of 1973; a group eight (8) individuals who each led the Security Department at a New Jersey State College or University met to discuss forming a statewide organization for the purpose to promote interest in the proper administration, operation and development of college and university security and police organizations. The group continued to meet each year, the number of members continued to increase, and the group was officially named the New Jersey College and University Public Safety Association (NJ CUPSA). It is truly my honor and privilege to assume the presidency of the NJ CUPSA 47 years later.

For nearly 50 years, the NJ CUPSA has served as the voice of public safety for colleges and universities in the State of New Jersey. The association is represented by both police and security professionals who meet monthly during the academic year to discuss emerging trends, current legislation and compliance, and to enhance training for those responsible for campus public safety at New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education. NJ CUPSA is the leading the cause for safe campuses throughout the state. Our police and security professionals are dedicated to maintaining the safety and security of New Jersey's institutions of higher education. By uniting over 1,800 police and security professionals from [nearly 40 Institutions of Higher Education](#), we work collaboratively to serve and protect the more than 400,000 students who have made New Jersey the home for their higher education. We are also closely affiliated with The International Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

Earlier today, via Webex, Deputy Chief Robert DiGenova, Director Joseph Rodriguez, Director Andrew Eaton and I were sworn in as your 2020–21 Executive Board. Our swearing-in is bittersweet as it comes a day after what should have been our Annual Awards Ceremony. A day set aside each year to honor and praise those whose work was above and beyond the call of duty. These last few months have certainly taxed us in ways we did not anticipate and unfortunately will likely continue to challenge us, as well as our institutions, personally and professionally, for the foreseeable future. Through it all, I have found our collective resolve and group cohesion to be our greatest asset in our collective and mutual successes.

In preparation for today, I had set out a list of priorities for the association for the upcoming calendar year. Truth be told, this list had been a work in progress during my tenure on the NJ CUPSA Executive Board. That said, over the next several weeks I will be setting aside that list of



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priorities insofar as our current priority is and will remain the collective recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is my hope that in the coming weeks and months, our attention can be refocused to the “regular business” of the association. To that end, it is my hope to continue President Giardino’s work toward bolstering the influence of the association and building partnerships with allied organizations. That, and world events permitting, hosting the best conference this organization has ever seen in 2021!

I want to thank Lieutenant Paul Giardino for his leadership over this past year. He is the most recent in a long line of Association Presidents which have left the organization better than they found it. I have had the wonderful opportunity to watch the growth of this organization during my twenty-year tenure with the Division of Public Safety at Rutgers. The dedication to the association and the professionalism of the Former Presidents is what makes CUPSA what it is. This is why I am also pleased that our immediate Past Presidents: Paul Giardino, Timothy Grant and Scott Torre have all agreed to remain engaged with the executive board and the association as Trustees for the coming year. As we all know, CUPSA is a treasured and invaluable asset to the Higher Education Public Safety community in New Jersey and the region. I look forward to working with the executive board and each of you to bring the same success to CUPSA during my tenure as President.

As I conclude my comments, I need to also extend my thanks and appreciation to my boss, Rutgers University’s Executive Director of Public Safety and Chief of University Police Kenneth Cop for encouraging me to become more involved in NJ CUPSA and, of course, for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your 2020-21 President.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not also thank my wife, Amanda, and our children for their support in this leadership role.

It is my honor and privilege to take the reins of this organization at such a pivotal time for Higher Education and our nation and it is my solemn promise to leave the association better than I found it.

Collegially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Rein".

Mike Rein
President, NJ CUPSA
Deputy Chief of University Police
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
June 4, 2020