



## RIHA Liaison Police Officer, Mike Wood Expands His Wardrobe

Starting this spring, RIHA's liaison officer, Mike Wood, will be wearing a new piece of equipment on his uniform. The Rock Island Police Department (RIPD) has purchased Axon (formerly Taser) body cameras for each of its officers. These body cameras are being rolled out throughout the months of April & May. The body camera is about the size of a man's wallet and is worn on the chest of the officer.

Body cameras are effective tools for capturing what an officer sees during an encounter with a suspect and can be used to record police interviews that can later be used during police investigations. Body cameras also help keep costs down for police departments by squashing lawsuits that are filed without merit. In addition, their footage can be used to calm concerns of the community after a violent or complex encounter between an officer and a citizen.

For the citizens of RIHA and CHS properties, it is important to know that although Officer Wood will be wearing the body camera, it will only be activated during certain "police encounters." If Officer Wood or any other officer has a chance encounter with you, you will not be recorded. If you have a friendly conversation with an officer in a lobby or parking lot, the interaction will not be recorded. Only when an officer is responding to a call for service or an active

Police Body Cameras will be activated ONLY when an officer is responding to a call for service or when an active crime is occurring, NOT during friendly conversations in a lobby or parking lot. If the officer wants to record you and you are only a witness to an event, he or she will let you know beforehand that you are being recorded.

crime is occurring, will the body camera be activated by the officer. If the officer wants to record you and you are only a witness to an event, he or she will let you know beforehand that you are being recorded.

The rollout of these new tools is beneficial to both the officer and the citizens being served, as they provide a true and accurate record of events that police officers respond to each day.

If anyone has any further questions about the RIPD body cameras, don't hesitate to ask Officer Wood or any other officer you see patrolling your property.

## RIHA Implements Smoke-Free Policy

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the only sure way to prevent exposure to secondhand smoke in multifamily housing is to enforce a smoke-free policy. Smoke-free policies are part of a nationwide Healthy Homes movement to reduce housing-based health hazards. As a result, the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring Public Housing Agencies (PHA) nationwide to implement smoke-free policies banning the use of tobacco products. Smoke-free homes help provide housing stability for children, and residents with respiratory conditions, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or who breathe with assistance from a home oxygen respirator.

The RIHA smoke-free policy will cover all individual apartments, all indoor common areas, administrative office buildings, patios, balconies, porticos, covered porches, and include all grounds and parking lots surrounding RIHA properties. The policy applies to all employees, residents, household members, guests, service providers, and contractors. Prohibited products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs), and electric smoking devices, such as e-cigarettes. RIHA is taking this important step to protect its residents, workers and visitors from the harmful and hazardous effects of secondhand smoke; however residents are NOT required to quit smoking or be non-smokers to live at an RIHA property.

RIHA will begin implementing its smoke-free policy on October 1, 2017. Between the months of October 2017 and March 2018 all residents will be required to sign a Smoke Free Lease Addendum. Should a resident fail to sign the addendum prior to March 31, 2018 they will be required to vacate their unit on or before April 30, 2018. This policy will be enforced beginning June 1, 2018.

Residents interested in learning more about the information and resources available to help them to quit smoking may contact their property manager or a Resident Services Coordinator.

### Outdoor Designated Smoking Area

As part of developing the Smoke-Free Policy, RIHA surveyed residents from Spencer Towers, Sunset Heights and Lincoln Homes. Of the 111 residents that responded to the survey, eighty-eight (88) support a smoke-free policy that would provide a designated outdoor area for people to go if they choose to smoke. In response, a handicapped accessible covered gazebo will be provided as an outdoor designated smoking area for residents and their guests.

# Springtime Barbeque Safety

The weather is warming up which means the outdoor grills are firing up for the season. Before you plan your next barbeque, remember these few safety rules.

- Grills cannot be utilized on the balcony of an apartment, townhouse or condominium
- Clean the grill before use. If you allow grease and fat to build up on your grill, they provide more fuel for a fire. Grease is a major source of flare ups, and it's just a smart thing to do – especially if you live at one of the high rises where grills are shared with other residents.
- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills.
- With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills and do not add fluid after coals have been lit.
- Make sure to dispose of the cooled coals safely and properly, do not just pour them in the yard.
- Charcoal grills are provided for resident use at both Sunset Heights and Spencer Towers
- For those of you that do not live at Spencer or Sunset, all charcoal grills should be pulled out away from the building a minimum of 15 feet.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.

One final summertime thought, please clean up the patio or backyard area when your picnic or barbeque is over. If we all do our part, we will all have the opportunity to enjoy a long and pleasant summer with our neighbors.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### RIHA Properties

Lincoln Homes: 309.788-0539  
Maintenance: 309.788-3800

Sunset Heights: 309.788-3800  
Maintenance: 309.788.3800

Spencer Towers: 309.788.1809  
Maintenance: 309.788.1809

3rd & 11th Townhomes: 309.788.1809  
Maintenance: 309.788.1809

### Leasing Office:

227 - 21st Street, Rock Island, IL 61201  
Phone: 309.788.0828 • Email: [Housing@RIHA4rent](mailto:Housing@RIHA4rent)  
[www.RIHA4Rent.org](http://www.RIHA4Rent.org)

### CHS Properties

Cascade Garden: 309.283.2299  
Maintenance: 309.283.2299

Douglas Park Place Maintenance: 309.283.2299

Lynden Lane: 309.283.2299  
Maintenance: 309.283.2299

### Leasing Office:

655 Cascade Garden Drive, Rock Island, IL 61201  
Phone: 309.283.2299 • Email: [Housing@RIHA4rent](mailto:Housing@RIHA4rent)  
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