Body camera footage highlights aftermath of dispute between Mizzou groups

ST. LOUIS • A lot has happened during the three months since a public dispute between a University of Missouri-Columbia fraternity and the Legion of Black Collegians raised concerns about how much progress Mizzou has made since the protests of November 2015, centered largely around issues of race.

Members of the black student government group alleged that at least one drunk white woman used a racial slur against the students as they walked on campus on Sept. 27.

The situation escalated when Legion members say Delta Upsilon fraternity men provoked them from the windows of the fraternity house.

Whether any students were punished because of the incident is unknown because university leaders do not discuss student conduct or Title IX issues.

Body camera video obtained Thursday after the Post-Dispatch made a records request in September verifies the narrative laid out in police reports received after the incident.

University leaders say progress has been made by the student groups over the past three months.

“Since the incident in September, our student, administrative and staff leaders have met to discuss the incident and how we can improve relationships throughout our campus,” the university said in a statement.

Members of the Legion of Black Collegians met several times with members of Delta Upsilon prior to the fraternity being suspended after multiple alcohol violations. The two groups released a shared statement last month announcing the joint effort of understanding.

“We are committed to creating a foundation that is conducive to a better understanding of one another and the changes we can make collectively,” the statement reads. “While we know that the work needed to continue developing this relationship will not be easy, we are discussing specific steps and actions our groups can take to educate ourselves and the larger community.”

According to police statements and body camera videos, the Legion members allege that it was one or two women who directed racial slurs toward them.
Video captures a group of white students who might have been witnesses to the incident. One white male in the group says on tape: “Like, what was said, I’d be upset if I were them.”

It’s unclear whether any members of Delta Upsilon used racial slurs or shouted profanities from the windows to the black students who were walking down the street. No police officer reported hearing slurs, and fraternity members on video denied the accusations. Reports and videos mention fraternity members were playing rap music from the windows, which Legion members said could have been aimed at provoking the students who were upset about the previous confrontation.

All student names were redacted from the police report, and their faces are blurred out on all the videos.

Since the incident, members of the black student organization also have met multiple times with the Mizzou Police Department as a means of building understanding between the black student community and the officers.

“We are proud of these efforts and believe that it is these types of positive interactions and relationships that help us build a better Mizzou,” the university said in a statement.

MU body cam footage supports police accounts of racially charged incident

COLUMBIA — In the four months since members of the Legion of Black Collegians said they were called racist slurs, the MU Police Department, Legion members and members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity have been meeting.

Soon after the incident on the night of Sept. 27, Legion members and MU police administrators discussed the incident, both in a town hall meeting at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center and in private meetings, according to MU spokesman Christian Basi.
The incident involved several MU students, including two female members of the Legion of Black Collegians, and people inside the Delta Upsilon house at Tiger Avenue and Rollins Street.

Body camera footage released Thursday in response to a Sunshine Law request made Sept. 29 by the Missourian matches the reports previously released by the MU Police Department. MU police officers were first flagged down after Legion members were called “niggers” near Francis Quadrangle.

The officers and the Legion members followed the students who had said the slur and ended up in front of the Delta Upsilon house. The Legion members also alleged that people inside the Delta Upsilon house had shouted "inappropriate things" at them.

The footage released Thursday was intentionally blurred to hide students’ faces, according to Paula Barrett, custodian of records for the University of Missouri System. The audio has also been edited to hide students’ identities, Barrett said in an email.

According to the police reports and the body camera footage, several officers tried to sort out what had happened and take statements from Legion members, Delta Upsilon members, the MU students who had initially used the slur, and bystanders.

Since that meeting, MU police leadership and Legion members have met several times. On Thursday, Basi said that he could not elaborate on the nature of the meetings because they were private, but members of the police department had spoken positively about the meetings.

MU Police Maj. Scott Richardson said MU police officers have been using body cameras since November 2014.

They use TASER AXON cameras, the same model used by Columbia Police Department officers. The TASER camera is consistently buffering 30 seconds of video. When it is activated, the camera immediately begins recording and keeps the previously buffered 30 seconds. Although files are limited to 30 minutes, 30 seconds in length, the cameras do not shut off automatically when the limit is reached. Instead, a new clip is initiated.

LBC members tweeted Nov. 15 that they had met with Delta Upsilon members to discuss how each organization could educate themselves and the MU community.

Gust Mossides, who was vice president of external relations for the MU chapter of Delta Upsilon at the time of the incident, said he was at the house that night. The Legion complaints — that fraternity members shouted at the Legion members and mockingly played rap music — were unfounded, Mossides said. Loud music was always playing on the second floor, and he doesn’t believe members of his fraternity would yell anything racist.

“Racism is everywhere," he said. "Racism is wrong, and I can’t condone it. People at LBC were rightfully upset that night. I don’t think they should be upset with us, but I understand it, and we’re working with them.”
Because the fraternity was later suspended by MU and by its national organization over unrelated events, Mossides said he’s not sure if the meetings can officially continue, but he hopes that individuals from the fraternity will keep meeting with the Legion.

Members of the Legion were contacted for this story and could not be reached as of Thursday afternoon.

**Body cameras show tense scene with Delta Upsilon, LBC members**


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Police Department logged more than five hours of footage of a chaotic scene outside the Delta Upsilon fraternity involving members of the Legion of Black Collegians this past fall.

The incident landed DU on emergency suspension, and stoked considerable interest from media outlets on the fraternity's misconduct the last academic semester. LBC members claimed a group of students shouted racial slurs at them on campus, and followed that group back to the DU house on September 28.

DU was eventually suspended by its national organization for two years following investigations into unrelated incidents, including underage drinking and assaults at the house.

ABC 17 News requested the police body camera video the day after the incident. MUPD wrote in its initial report that officers never heard DU members shout racial slurs, but LBC members claim people inside the fraternity escalated the situation by shouting out of windows at them and blasting rap music through speakers.

The body camera footage from eight officers show the emotional scene in as many as 30-minute increments. Faces are blurred due to federal privacy laws concerning students, and the audio occasionally drops when specific names are said. Crying can be heard from an LBC member, as people on all sides try to get a grasp on what happened.
None of the videos show the alleged racial slurs, or reported harassment, but show LBC, DU and MUPD members trying to find some resolution. After asking an LBC member to leave the porch of DU’s home, officers facilitate a discussion between one person identified as the DU chapter president and another LBC member. The DU president said he doesn't believe any of his fraternity brothers would shout slurs. He said members rushed to the windows when numerous police cars pulled up in front of their home, curious as to what was happening outside.

The LBC member said she understood that DU members would wonder what was happening outside, but that did not excuse them from shouting at students gathered outside.

"If there's people that can be identified, you're going to need to handle those situations with those members," she says in the video.

MUPD Maj. Scott Richardson tells ABC 17 News the case is "inactive," meaning the agency is no longer investigating a potential crime. The Office of Student Conduct could still hand down individual punishments to students, if any were found to have violated school policy.

Other videos show police and students trying to calm down those on the sidewalk, amidst several people shouting and sometimes joking with one another.

In November, the LBC and DU released a joint statement about a developing "relationship" between the two groups.

"While we know that the work needed to continue developing this relationship will not be easy, we are discussing specific steps and actions our groups can take to educate ourselves and the larger community," part of the statement reads.
MU is only system campus to offer employees paid time off for holidays

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley is playing Santa Claus to the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus employees, giving them a week off with pay between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

University employees on the other three campuses or in the system administrative office, however, must use vacation or personal leave if they want paid time off over the holidays.

“This is an opportunity to thank staff who are so crucial to the university’s operations,” read a statement prepared by the MU News Bureau. “This action will not generate any additional costs for the university, and it will help build morale, which could also have a positive effect on productivity.”

Employees who cannot take the full week off can arrange to use the leave at a later date, News Bureau associate director Christian Basi said. He said the paid time off was approved for this year only.

Because both holidays fall on a Sunday, all of the university’s approximately 24,000 employees will get a paid day off Monday and on Jan. 2. The four campuses and the system administration have different schedules for which offices will be open and which will be closed between those dates. About 16,000 employees work for the Columbia campus.

The St. Louis campus will close except for admissions and financial aid and “some other essential areas,” Bob Samples, associate vice chancellor for communication, wrote in an email. UMSL employs about 2,000 people.

“Employees use vacation/personal days to account for the time off,” Samples wrote. “This has been the practice for many, many years and this year as well.”

Some offices at the Missouri University of Science and Technology are closed, “but staff in those offices must take vacation or personal days during the dates of an office’s closing during break,” wrote Andrew Careaga, spokesman for the Rolla campus. Missouri S&T has about 1,550 employees.

On the Kansas City campus and at the system offices in Columbia, no closings are planned but it is expected many employees will take some time off.
John Martellaro, spokesman for UMKC, wrote that keeping campus offices open and having employees use accumulated leave if they wish for time off has been the policy for several years. UMKC employs almost 3,500 people.

“I am not aware of any discussions about changing that policy,” he wrote.

Each campus chancellor has the discretion to decide whether to grant administrative leave with pay over the holidays, system spokesman John Fougere said Wednesday.

At the system level, granting leave to the 500 employees would be up to the president.

“We opted to go with our normal, standard practice, which is employees next week must use personal or vacation days to account for any time they take off,” Fougere said.

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**Messenger: St. Louis Archdiocese turns its eyes to rural hunger this Christmas**

Features News Bureau press release: [2016 Missouri Hunger Atlas Shows Worsening Situation](page 2)

There is one issue in Missouri that doesn’t get buried in the chasm of the urban-rural split that so often divides the state.

Hunger.

Hunger knows no boundaries, and in Missouri it is prevalent in every corner of the state.

For the past several years, the Show-Me State has ranked as one of the most food insecure states in the nation. For those of us in St. Louis, the poverty and hunger is most obvious in the core of the city, where homeless people beg for change, where many children start their day at school with breakfast because they didn’t get enough to eat at home, where home-bound seniors depend on Meals with Wheels and other programs to get their daily sustenance.

But not far from the city, just beyond the suburbs and the exurbs, rural poverty hits just as hard.

That’s what Marie Kenyon thought recently when a friend offered to donate 500 turkeys to feed hungry families on Christmas.

Kenyon is the director of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis. The commission was started by Archbishop Robert Carlson in May 2015, in part as a response to unrest in Ferguson and St. Louis. Among its focus on strengthening families, the commission has sought to help the church and its members “learn to live with others despite our differences.”
When Kenyon’s friend — Debbie Weaver, president of Midwest Litigation Services — called and offered the holiday turkeys, Kenyon decided she wanted them to go to a part of the archdiocese that doesn’t get as much attention for its battles with poverty but faces steep challenges just like the city does.

“We spend so much time talking about the poverty here,” Kenyon says. “But 50 miles away, it’s just as bad and they don’t have any resources.”

Over the past couple of weeks, the turkeys have been handed out in Washington County, just southwest of St. Louis. They went to St. James Catholic Church in Potosi, St. Stephens Catholic Church in Richwoods, and to some rural parish workers who delivered them individually to families.

The need in Washington County is great, says Nancee Schamel. She’s the president of the local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and helps supervise the food pantry at St. James.

Over the past year, Schamel says, there’s been a huge increase in the number of families served by the pantry, which gets much of its food from the St. Louis Area Food Bank.

Every third Saturday, people line up at the church to get a box of beans and pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, and often some frozen meat. They leave with about $50 worth of food.

In 2015, the food pantry at St. James served 1,353 families. This year it served 1,961, a 45 percent increase.

“I think it’s just the times,” Schamel says. “We’re one of the poorest counties in the state.”

More than 75 percent of the school-age population is eligible for participation in federal lunch assistance programs in Washington County, according to the Missouri Hunger Atlas produced by the University of Missouri. More than 60 percent of the children under 5 years old qualify for aid from the Women, Infant, Children program, and more than 55 percent of the county’s residents are eligible for food stamps.

All of those numbers are similar to the demographics in the city of St. Louis.

But the city, Kenyon says, has many aid programs focused on helping its residents.

“One of the things that has become very apparent to me,” Kenyon says, “is if you really look at who is suffering, there is as much going on in the rural areas as in the urban area.”

On Wednesday, Schamel and other volunteers passed out turkeys to many of the folks who regularly come to the pantry for food. Many of the clients are older adults, and some of them are taking care of other relatives, so in some cases two or three generations show up for help with food or other services.

St. James also helped last year with some utility bills and prescription medicines for people in need. It sometimes hands out gas vouchers so people can make the trip to St. Louis to go to the doctor.

On Sunday, a Christmas turkey will grace tables that without the faith and help of others might have been a little bit empty.

Come Jan. 20, the line outside the church food pantry will appear again, as the monthly cycle to make ends meet begins anew in a county where the hungry often suffer in rural isolation.
New Medicare Regs Will Pay Doctors for Better Care

by Kaiser Health News

Doctors have complained for years that they're not paid adequately for time-consuming work associated with managing care for seriously ill older patients: consulting with other specialists, talking to families and caregivers, interacting with pharmacists and more.

That will change on Jan. 1, as a new set of Medicare regulations go into effect.

Under the new rules, physicians will be compensated for legwork involved in working in teams — including nurses, social workers and psychiatrists — to improve care for seniors with illnesses such as diabetes, heart failure and hypertension.

Care coordination for these "high need" patients will be rewarded, as will efforts to ensure that seniors receive effective treatments for conditions such as anxiety or depression.

Comprehensive evaluations of older adults with suspected cognitive impairment will get a lift from new payments tied to the standards that physicians now will be required to follow.

The new Medicare policies reflect heightened attention to the costliest patients in the health care system — mostly older adults who have multiple chronic conditions that put them at risk of disability, hospitalization, and an earlier-than-expected death. Altogether, 10 percent of patients account for 65 percent of the nation's health spending.

It remains to be seen how many physicians will embrace the services that the government will now reimburse. Organizations that advocated for the new payment policies hope they'll make primary care and geriatrics more attractive areas of practice in the years ahead.

Here's a look at what is entailed:

Complex Chronic Care Management
Two years ago, Medicare began paying nurses, social workers and medical assistants to coordinate care for seniors with two or more serious chronic conditions. But low reimbursement and burdensome requirements discouraged most medical practices from taking this on.

New payments for "complex chronic care management" are more generous (an average $93.67 for the first hour, $47.01 for each half hour thereafter) and can be billed more often, making them more attractive.

They'll cover services such as managing seniors' transitions from the hospital back home or to a rehabilitation center, coordinating home-based services, connecting patients with resources, and educating caregivers about their conditions.

Many practices will be able to hire care managers with this new financial support, said Dr. Peter Hollmann, secretary of the American Geriatrics Society and chief medical officer of University Medicine, a medical group practice associated with Brown University's medical school.

To illustrate the benefits, he tells of a recent patient, with diabetes, hypertension and heart failure who was retaining fluid and had poorly controlled blood sugar. After a care manager began calling the 72-year-old man every few days, asking if he was checking his blood sugar or gaining weight, Hoffmann adjusted doses of insulin and diuretics.

"The patient remained at home and he's doing well, and we likely prevented a hospitalization," Hoffmann said.

**Cognitive Impairment Assessment**

Making a dementia diagnosis is difficult, and primary care physicians often fail to do so on a timely basis. But new Medicare policies may help change that by specifying what cognitive examinations should entail and offering enhanced payments.

Physicians who conduct these evaluations are now expected to meet 10 requirements. In addition to performing a careful physical exam and taking a detailed history, they need to assess an older adult's ability to perform activities of daily living, their safety, behavioral and neuropsychiatric symptoms, and caregivers' knowledge, needs and abilities.

All the medications the senior is taking should be evaluated, and standardized tests used to assess cognition. Efforts to elicit the patient's goals and values need to occur in the context of advance planning, and a care plan must be crafted and shared with caregivers.

Medicare will pay $238.30 for the initial assessment and additional fees for creating a care plan and performing care management.

"Hopefully, this will kick start the development of practices that provide these dementia-related services," said Dr. Robert Zorowitz, senior medical director at OptumCare CarePlus, a managed Medicare long-term care program in New York City.
Care Between Patient Visits

Until now, the rule has been: if the doctor is with a patient, he can bill for his time. But if he takes home medical records to review at night or talks by phone with a caregiver who's concerned about her elderly mother, that time goes unpaid.

That will change next year: Medicare will begin paying $113.41 for the first hour spent in these kind of activities and $54.55 for every subsequent half hour.

For the first time, "this recognizes the significant and valuable services that physicians perform in between face-to-face visits," said Dr. Phillip Rodgers, co-chair of the public policy committee at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Physicians will also get extra reimbursement for extra time they spend in person with complex patients or their caregivers.

Dr. Paul Tatum, an associate professor of clinical family and community medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine recently scheduled a half hour for a patient in his mid-70s with high blood pressure, kidney disease, skin issues and cognitive impairment. But the visit ran to 90 minutes when it became clear the gentleman was more confused than ever, falling, not eating well, not taking medications, and needed more help.

"Much of what we did for this patient fits in the new Medicare codes, which recognize the extent of what's needed to care for people with complex illnesses," the doctor said.

Integrating Behavior Health

Research has shown the seniors with depression — a frequent complication of serious illness — benefit when primary care physicians collaborate with psychologists or psychiatrists and care managers track their progress.

Now, Medicare will begin paying $142.84 for the first 70 minutes that physicians and behavioral health providers work together, $126.33 for the next hour, and $66.04 per half hour for a care manager who stays in touch with patients and tracks whether they're improving.

Care managers may work on site or off; psychologists and psychiatrists will be called for consultations, as needed.

"Accessing mental health services is a really big problem for my patients, and having professionals ready to work with me and compensated to do so will be extraordinarily valuable," said Rodgers of the hospice and palliative medicine academy.