UPDATE

This report is really long- here is the short version. We have had a lot of events in the last month or so. We hosted two events with Maroons – Skate Night and Westdale Food Tour 2.0 – both of which were very successful with good outreach. We held two campaigns – Engage Your City and Campus and Community Safety Week- which didn’t have great outreach though the events were solid. Hamilton Police are preparing for St. Patrick’s Day with greater police presence throughout the weekend. We will have a community clean-up on the Sunday.

There are still many concerns surrounding safety for students, which were expressed at our community safety focus group. It is important SCSN and the MSU follows through on these concerns and works to collect more data for advocacy (I recommend a survey on crime reporting, police response, feelings of safety, etc.).

Moving forward, we will be focusing on transition and setting groundwork for next year.
Informational Materials
For Campus and Community Safety Week, we did not print off graphics or informational materials to be distributed.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES
SCSN & Maroons Present Skate Night
On Wednesday, January 31st, the Maroons and SCSN partnered to host a skate night at Pier 8. Students bused down to Pier 8 skate rink for free skating, hot chocolate and snacks. The event was successful with about 25 non-Maroon attendees.
**Engage Your City Campaign**
From March 1st to March 2nd, SCSN held a mini-campaign promoting volunteering opportunities and exploration in Hamilton.

**Youth Empowerment in Hamilton Workshop**
On Thursday, March 1st, we held a workshop on volunteering with CommunityCircle, a volunteer group that helps after-school programs and tutors high school students. There was a low turnout for this event, however all those who attended were engaged.

**Westdale Food Tour 2.0**
Last Thursday, SCSN partnered with the MSU Maroons to bring back our Westdale Food tour we hosted back in November. The Westdale Food tour took two groups of students to various local businesses and restaurants in Westdale for free samples and to hear about the services and history of these businesses. The event was beyond successful! Despite it being cold, snowing with a weather alert that night, we had approximately 40 students attending for the tour (approximately 25 non-Maroon attendees). Students who attended loved the free food and enjoyed hearing about some of the local businesses and restaurants close to home. This is an event that will definitely continue in the future and I will be advising next year’s PTM to consider expanding the event to Locke Street during summer months.

**Engage Your City - Volunteer Fair**
On Friday, March 2, 2018, we hosted a volunteer fair about opportunities students can get involved with for the summer. We had really low turnout - potentially the room location, timing or just general lack of reach. We still managed to talk with students who stopped by.

**Campus and Community Safety Week**
This week, SCSN partnered with WHAT as well as WGEN, MACycle and FYC to host week-long programming on home and community safety, culture of consent and first aid.

**Community Safety Focus Group**
On Monday, we held a focus group to collect experiences from students regarding community safety. There was okay turnout for the event, however the feedback and discussions were very informative. The information from the meeting was recorded and will be passed to Ryan and Stephanie.

**Home Safety/Security Escape Room**
On Tuesday, we hosted a mini escape room in clubspace with fire safety, home safety and home security being the theme. We had poor
turnout for this event, probably because promo for the event wasn’t great. Those who did come to the escape room found it fun, however it wasn’t as educational as I hoped. Cool event, but in the future, needs much more promo and more information/resources on safety.

CommuteSafe
On Wednesday, we tabled in MUSC atrium and collected information from student regarding trouble areas on and off campus that need better lighting or better safety measures. The information from this will be used to inform advocacy if more light poles is implemented through the participatory budget.

Community Meetings and Advocacy
Since the last EB meeting, I’ve had several meetings with community groups. Below are relevant updates from those meetings:
- Ainslie Wood Community Association wants to reform participatory budget, so more investments happen in the neighborhoods on the other side of Main
- St. Patrick’s Day Hamilton Police preparation: Officers from 7am Saturday March 17th- 2am Sunday March 18th, RIDE program in effect, social media monitoring, officers patrolling Friday March 16th night, will be charging for noise violations (no grace period), all house parties shut down, additional 4 horses and two public order units, university has additional officers

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES
For the rest of the semester, we do not have events planned (perhaps an exam destressor). We will be focusing on transition next year and groundwork for any changes for the service.

St. Patrick’s Day Community Clean-up + Promo Strategies
St. Patrick’s Day is next Saturday on March 17th. We will be launching a promotional strategy just like with Homecoming regarding littering and noise violations. We will also be having a community clean-up on Sunday, March 18th around 1pm. Food will likely be provided.

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
I will be reaching out to HCLC again to try to work on resources for students with housing issues. As well, research will continue on Chukky and I’s proposal for a Neighborhood Assistance Program.
BUDGET

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We are now over budget for promotions and advertising. This year we have done a lot of campaigns and informational materials which has brought the costs up. We are approaching our budget limit for events because of programming for Campus and Community Safety Week.

VOLUNTEERS

Reports from our community connectors found that garbage on yards hasn't been an issue, it is more so garbage in public areas. Snow shoveling continues to be an issue. The community connectors are doing great and enjoying their roles. We haven't had an exec/volunteer social because everyone has been busy.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Ensuring Community Safety

From this week’s Community Safety Focus Group, many students expressed concerns and experiences of harassment, feelings of unsafety and insufficient response from Hamilton Police while living in student housing. From the results of the focus group, it seems the Hamilton Police has not taken some calls seriously for instance attempted break-ins or ‘sketchy’ people harassing students along Main. I noticed that many people in the focus group lived in the Ainslie Wood West community (other side of Main), so I didn’t collect enough information on safety in Westdale, though attendees stated they felt safer in Westdale. There seems to be an underrepresentation of reporting from Hamilton Police. According to the online crime map, online three instances of break-ins/violence occurred in student neighborhoods, however, attendees expressed recent cases of harassment in which they called the police, but follow-up was terrible. In my opinion, student neighborhoods are receiving disproportionate response regarding community safety.

I will be forwarding the notes to Ryan to inform any future campaigns or surveys – I will be recommending the MSU have a policy paper on community safety especially since this year has had numerous community safety related issues come up. With the municipal elections coming up, it presents an opportunity to push for better lighting, police response and other safety measures in student communities.
**Campus and Community Safety Week**

I had a few challenges with Campus and Community Safety Week. One challenge was legitimacy of the week. Though SCSN focused more on collecting feedback/experiences form students rather than distributing informational materials, it was hard to establish the week as legitimate – that is, I would have liked to collaborate with Campus Security, the University and Hamilton Police more. Another challenge was research for the safety week. The informational materials provided by the Hamilton Police and the Hamilton Fire department were pretty useless for students, so it was hard to provide students with tips without reliable information.

**SUCCESSES**

- Two successful events with solid outreach
- Pumped a lot of events over the last month
- Informational response to complaint about Spotted Properties

**OTHER**

**St. Patrick’s Day**

On Thursday, February 15th, in the PACCR (President’s Advisory Committee on Community Relations) meeting, Sgt. Amandeep Gill detailed Hamilton Police’s strategy for St. Patrick’s Day. In my opinion, and some members of the Municipal Affairs committee, the approach seemed excessive (likely in response to Dalewoodstock). For the future, it is important for the MSU to be looped into these discussions while strategies are being made to ensure response is appropriate for events/holiday such as St. Patrick’s Day. Hamilton Police stated that on the Friday, March 16th and Saturday, March 17th will be shutting down all parties, which is concerning if, one, a house party does not violate noise bylaws, and two, neighbours consented to a large party and there are no complaints. I will be working with Chukky and Wooder on promotions to students, so they are aware of Hamilton Police’s preparation for St. Patrick’s Day.

**Spotted Properties**

Spotted Properties is a property management firm that deals with many student houses near McMaster now. There was an issue earlier last month where they were emailing misleading information to students regarding move-out notice. We responded with an article to ensure students are fully knowledgeable about their tenant rights on the issue. In the future, it is important we keep Spotted Properties accountable (through SCSN and Off-Campus Resource Centre) to ensure they are
not pressuring students or sending misinformation in an attempt to get students to comply.

In general, more needs to be done to collect student feedback and issues regarding both my service and also student community/housing