



**Media Release** – Sept. 26, 2018

Contact: Sara Diedrich, Public Safety Information Specialist

[diedrichs@missouri.edu](mailto:diedrichs@missouri.edu)

Office (573) 882-3243

### **2018 Annual Fire Safety and Security Report shows drop in liquor law referrals at MU**

The number of Mizzou students referred for disciplinary action due to liquor law violations was cut nearly in half last year, due in part to a drop in the number of students in residence halls in 2017, but also because of a concerted effort by the University of Missouri to better educate students about wellness issues such as fitness and nutrition, stress-reduction, and alcohol and drugs.

“Campus safety and security is a collaborative effort at MU,” MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt said. “We partner with many departments on campus that have a critical role in fostering campus safety, including the Department of Residential Life and Office for Civil Rights & Title IX.”

According to the [2018 Annual Fire Safety and Security Report](#), the number of students referred for disciplinary action for liquor law violations dropped from 800, or 2.4 percent of the student population, in 2016 to 419, or 1.4 percent of the student population, last year. The number of liquor law arrests increased slightly, from 196 in 2016 to 216 last year, or .6 percent and .7 percent of the student population respectively.

Each year, MU publishes the safety and security report, which covers the previous calendar year and contains valuable information about safety measures and crime statistics at Mizzou. The report is released in compliance with provisions of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

Additionally, there were more MUPD officers patrolling campus and surrounding streets than ever before in 2017, which likely caused an uptick in arrests in some other areas, said Lt. Kevin Rodgers, MU’s Clery Compliance Coordinator.

In 2017, MUPD had about 45 sworn officers, an increase of about five officers the previous year.

MU also educates students about the importance of reporting all sexual offenses and to make sure victims feel comfortable coming forward and accessing the plethora of resources available to them.

Gary Ward, vice chancellor for Operations and interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said the MU continues to make great strides in educating students, faculty and staff on safety measures and improving the Mizzou experience.

“Besides providing a quality education to the leaders of tomorrow, safety is our No. 1 priority at Mizzou,” Ward said. “It is important that we foster a community where everyone feels safe and welcome. A truly safe campus can only be achieved through the cooperation of everyone.”

The MU Police Department suggests the following tips to minimize your risk of being the victim of a crime:

- Have a companion or a safe means of getting home, i.e., a trusted friend, taxi or STRIPES if available. The MU Police Department is available to provide safety escorts on campus 24 hours a day. Call (573) 882-7201. These escorts are not vehicle escorts and are provided by an unarmed Security Officer who will walk with you to your destination.
- Consider taking a [R.A.D. Basic Self Defense](#) class through MUPD.
- Mizzou now offers [Rave Guardian](#), which turns any smartphone into a personal safety device
- Other crime prevention tips can be found on the [MUPD website](#).