

SEGWAY®

Segway® PTs Help Secure an Urban University Campus

CUSTOMER:

Howard University
Washington, DC

CHALLENGES:

Maximize the safety and security of a large urban college campus

Patrol areas of campus that cruisers cannot easily access

SOLUTION:

Deploy six Segway Personal Transporters (PTs) across the university's main and satellite campuses in order to:

Increase officer visibility to students and faculty

Enhance officers' access to various areas of campus, including inside buildings

Empower campus officers to quickly respond to requests for public safety escorts

Improve officer and department morale

College campuses are often faced with unique security challenges because of their large footprint, open concept environment and diverse population. Howard University is a historic urban campus, spread across several neighborhoods, on the northwest side of Washington, DC. Situated about 10 blocks from Capitol Hill, its facilities include five separate campuses which are home to the law and divinity schools, sports stadiums and arenas, the region's leading trauma center, a research facility and more.

Police Chief Leroy K. James commented, "The University is located in the heart of one of the world's most security-conscious cities, which only adds to the challenges."

"More than 10,000 students attend Howard University. There's a major thoroughfare that runs through the heart of the campus. Our facilities are quite literally open to everyone," said Chief James. "The role of our police officers is to keep students, faculty and visitors safe and secure 24 hours a day, seven days a week. My job is to make sure officers have the tools they need to perform at a high level."

Chief James spent nearly 30 years with the nearby Prince George's County Police Department, most recently as a district commander near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. He was familiar with an important mobility tool, the Segway PT.

He said, "I had planned to purchase several Segway PTs to help my officers patrol a sprawling commercial development that was being constructed in that district. When I took a position at the University, I knew that if PTs would work in that environment, they would perform just as well on a large campus. I wanted the Segway PTs to help my officers cover more ground quickly, including indoors, that they couldn't reach in cruisers."

Chief James initially purchased four Segway i2 PTs. Two months later, he added two more PTs to the fleet. The units perfectly complement the department's cruiser and mountain bike fleets, and add greater mobility as well as enhanced visibility to foot patrols.

"The biggest benefit of the Segway PTs has been the increased visibility of our officers. People on campus are acknowledging my officers, talking with them – building relationships – which is difficult to do from a patrol car," added Chief James. "This dynamic has dramatically improved the morale of my officers. The PTs are in such demand; each shift commander has to decide which officers will patrol on them."

Chief James has two Segway PTs deployed on the main campus and two to patrol the hospital and trauma center. The remaining two units are used in other areas of the campus and at special events.

"We've outfitted our PTs with police decals, comfort mats and reflective tape for visibility. Each PT also has a cargo bag our officers use to carry ticket books and other equipment they need. We hope to add lights soon and begin using PTs on the midnight shift in the summer," commented Chief James. "I also appreciate the fact that we don't need to buy gas for PTs – we just plug in to recharge them. We've been able to park our cruisers more often and we've significantly cut our fuel costs."

Student, faculty and visitor response to the use of Segway PTs on campus has been extremely positive. PTs are often used to escort people across campus to class or to parking lots in the evening hours.

Chief James added, "Segway PTs are helping us to create a safe campus environment for teaching and learning – and that's what it's all about."

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