Eastern Connecticut State University  
83 Windham Street  
Willimantic, CT 06226  

Windham/Eastern Community Action Network (W/E CAN)  
Town Gown Committee Meeting  
September 5, 2013  

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Angelo Simoni, Director of Judicial Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University.  

1. Fine Arts Building Mini-Presentation  
   a. VP of Finance and Administration James Howarth  
      i. Mr. Howarth gave a presentation on the new Fine Arts building which is to be completed for the fall semester of 2015. A packet was distributed with the floor plan and visuals of the outside and inside of the building.  

2. Updates  
   a. Angelo Simoni  
      i. A. Simoni gave an update on how Eastern has been doing in terms of outreach to off-campus students since the start of the semester. He, Lieutenant Madera and a Willimantic police official have visited 30+ houses rented to students in the area surrounding Eastern. During said visits, students were reminded of appropriate behavior regarding alcohol, parties and being good, respectful neighbors in the community.  
      ii. A. Simoni will be going on a ride-along with the Willimantic Police later this evening and will report back on his ride-along at the next meeting.  

3. Community Concerns  
   a. A community member congratulated Eastern on the numerous accolades it has received in the recent past. The community member then asked why Eastern does not have an account with Hosmer Soda. He would like Eastern to create an account because it would support local business and stated that UConn has an account with Hosmer Soda. President Nunez and VP Howarth responded by saying that Eastern does not have a contract with Hosmer Soda because glass bottles are not allowed on campus, but they will look into this further.  
   b. A community member said that she and her family’s sleep have been affected by the activity on Chestnut Street. She said that there are 200+ students at these parties and asked if the Willimantic Police are still citing/arresting the renters of these properties.
c. Two community members who reside on Ridgewood Street said that things are getting worse on Ridgewood Street. Their main concerns included plastic cups all over the ground, under-age drinking and driving, students running through yards and students urinating on their property.
   i. The same residents expressed their concerns throughout the discussion. Additional concerns included the large amount of students’ cars parked on the street creating a one lane road, fire egress’ in rented homes, the rented homes housing 5+ students when they are designed for a single family and the increased popularity of fire pits on rented properties.

d. President Nunez apologized for the behavior of students off campus. She stated that Eastern does not encourage that type of behavior and is working with the proper authorities to address community member concerns. She also said that the University’s range is limited when dealing with off campus issues but Eastern is doing what it can.

e. Mr. Per Bjornstad, President of SGA, spoke at this time. He spoke of the efforts SGA has made and is currently making to help build better relations with the Willimantic community and promote responsible behavior.

f. A community member who lives on Mansfield Avenue said that the students currently living next to him have been the best, nicest neighbors he has ever had.

g. A landlord who rents properties next to Eastern spoke. She described herself as ‘hands-on’ and patrolled her properties the first weekend back to school. She believes that the main problem is not the students who live off campus, but the large groups of on campus residents who wander the streets looking for parties to go to. She is concerned that if a major crime happened, if Eastern Police could assist with Willimantic Police if necessary. Chief Garweski said that in some situations Eastern Police have assisted but he cannot always send officers off campus and leave Eastern unprotected with their limited staff.

h. A Willimantic Police official said that the Willimantic Police have been down officers due to injuries, etc. and their force will be regaining its strength soon. He also said that there will be officers on second and third shift strictly dedicated to party control.

i. A community member said that every year nothing changes and she is suffering from Eastern students’ behavior off campus. Several agreed and said that starting in 1997 was when the problems started occurring.

j. A landlord responded to the previous comments by saying that things have most definitely gotten better since in recent years.

k. A community member suggested bringing students who get in trouble off campus to Town Gown meetings to face the people they are hurting and explain why they did what they did.