



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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A Message to the Southern Miss Community

As Chief of Police of the Southern Miss Police Department, I would like the Southern Miss Community to know that we are committed to providing a healthy, connected, and learning focused environment for all members of the community.

Furthermore, I want to assure the campus community that I along with my officer's will not stand for racist ideologies, police misuse of power, misconduct or brutality, and we will condemn those who have committed such acts. I promise a police department that is accountable, transparent, and professional to the community we serve.

Since my appointment as your police chief in July 2019, I have taken steps to ensure that UPD adheres to the highest levels of integrity, moral character, and respect for everyone. I am committed to a "Community Caretaking" approach to law enforcement. I am also committed to an open dialogue with our students, campus community leaders, Student Government leaders, Office of Multicultural Affairs, faculty and staff to build trust with one another. UPD will always respect and protect your right to protest peacefully.

I firmly believe that together we can achieve positive change. <https://www.usm.edu/student-affairs/safety-protocols-protests.php>

Sincerely,

Chief Rusty Keyes