

**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**April 13, 2022**  
**9:30 AM via MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Director Moll opened the meeting with updates on DPS initiatives that have been discussed in prior meetings. Satoru Persons, the Director of the Communications & Security Technology Division, advised the group that surveillance cameras have been added to the Ohio Union North and South garages, and the 9th Avenue East and West garages will have cameras installed by the end of next week. Cameras will be added to the vehicle and pedestrian entrances and exits of all campus garages, with first priority given to those that have experienced the most criminal incidents. He then explained that half of the mobile light towers that were added to the off-campus neighborhoods where many of our students live have been removed due to enhanced permanent lighting in those areas. As the city continues upgrading the lighting on those streets, more mobile light towers will be removed, with the goal of removing all of them soon. Finally, Director Persons reminded the group that License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras have been installed both on and off campus to assist police in catching criminal suspects. Over 60 of these units have been installed and a 60-day trial period has begun to test this technology. City and university police officers can use the technology to locate vehicles registered/reported as stolen or associated with a crime, people with arrest warrants, or vehicles associated with a missing persons report. At the end of the trial period, university leaders will determine whether the LPRs will remain in place.

Next, Doug McGrew, the Director of Central Campus Security Services, gave an update on the non-police patrols being conducted on and off campus via student employees and private security contractors. Buckeye Block Watch continues to patrol off-campus neighborhoods Wednesday through Sunday evenings, which consists of patrollers from Community Crime Patrol and Block by Block. Currently, BEST Security and student Campus Service Officers patrol on campus, focusing right now on parking garages.

Next Chief of Police Spears-McNatt gave an update on OSUPD hiring. She indicated the OSU Police Division is realigning its command structure by eliminating a Captain's position and adding a second Deputy Chief and another Lieutenant. She said Eric Whiteside was recently promoted from Captain to Deputy Chief, and the search for the second Deputy Chief was underway due to the pending retirement of Deputy Chief Tracy Hahn. Some members of PSAC have been invited to serve on the selection panel for the new Deputy Chief. Chief Spears-McNatt also said the hiring of police officers is continuing. One group of applicants is in the background investigation phase and another group is being interviewed by her and Dr. Moll next week. She said the position will be posted again for a third group of applicants, likely in September, and this committee will be notified when the posting opens so members can help with recruitment. The Chief said OSUPD currently has 63 sworn officers on the books, with an approved strength of 70 as the current hiring goal.

Dr. Moll explained that since our last meeting in February, more feedback was obtained from student leaders regarding the sharing of off-campus crime information. University leaders then decided to go ahead with the recommendation to replace the off-campus Neighborhood Safety Notice emails with promotion of the Community Crime Map. Dr. Moll briefly reviewed off-campus crime statistics and indicated the security enhancements appear to be making an impact. Incidents of the three major crimes of aggravated assault, residential burglary and individual robbery have gone down in the University District on average about 60-70% since the beginning of the academic year.

When you click on the link to the newly promoted Community Crime Map, it will initially display these 3

major crime categories and show the incidents that have occurred over the past 30 days within a 1-mile radius of campus. You can tailor the map from there to include other crimes or an expanded area. You can also choose to receive daily, weekly or monthly emails that list the incidents occurring in the area you select. Dan Hedman shared his screen and displayed the most recent University District crime stats, which showed the general downward trend in major crime from late August through last week. He also displayed the Community Crime Map and showed the committee how the user can customize the map or sign up for email alerts of crime. The crime map can be found here:

<https://communitycrimemap.com/?address=29%2CWoodruff%2CAve%20Columbus%20OH%2C43210&crimeTypes=%5b7,8,11%5d&zoom=15&radius=1#nwrButton>

Chief Spears-McNatt reviewed on-campus crime trends. She said OSUPD has seen an uptick in bicycle thefts, theft from vehicles, theft of catalytic converters, and stolen cars. Stolen cars and stolen catalytic converters continue to be a nationwide crime trend. Car thieves seem to be stealing Kias and Hyundais most frequently. Keys are often left in cars by the victims, and sometimes cars are left running and unattended. Several area arrests of catalytic converter thieves have been made, but the incidents continue to happen. Additional police and security patrols in parking garages have helped slow the pace recently. Catalytic Converters can cost from \$1,000-\$1,500 to replace.

Dr. Moll relayed that a new DPS diversity training program developed in conjunction with the Kirwan Institute continues to be delivered to DPS staff. All OSUPD officers have received the 8 hour block of instruction. Now the trainers are beginning to deliver the training to the other DPS divisions so dispatchers, security officers and other staff benefit from the same training. OSUPD staff are in discussions with university DEI experts to determine what the next step for training should be. They would like to build off of this year's course to touch on other related topics in 2023. Dan Hedman shared his screen and played a short video that describes the training being conducted this year. The video can be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4pvUxk1oqw>

Next, committee members introduced themselves for the benefit of newer members, and each described their role at the university, areas of study, research interests, etc. Committee Chair Dr. Jeff McKee then thanked the group for their participation this past academic year, and asked for nominations to replace him as Chair for the upcoming academic year. He explained that we rely on the Chair for ideas for new member representation, agenda items, and to bring forward concerns from university community members. Dr. Paul Bellair offered to serve in this capacity and was unanimously approved as the next Chair of PSAC.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 9:30 a.m., and is optional since not all members are 12-month employees.

**Attendees:** Jeffrey McKee, Monica Moll, Margaret Bussard Phillips, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Tracy Hahn, Eric Whiteside, Bob Armstrong, Doug McGrew, Satoru Persons, Mike Mandelkorn, Adam Featherling, Dan Hedman, Amy Young, Paul Bellair, Micah Berman, Yolanda Zepeda, Kelly Smith, Christopher Taylor, Njeri Kagotho, Alan Mathews, Zaida Jenkins.

## **PSAC Chat Notes 04.13.22**

[Wednesday 9:51 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda  
Congrats Dept Chief Whiteside

[Wednesday 9:51 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda  
Best wishes to you DC Hahn

[Wednesday 9:52 AM] McKee, Jeffrey  
Congrats and thanks

[Wednesday 9:58 AM] Berman, Micah L.  
I need to run to another commitment. Thank you for the updates!

[Wednesday 10:02 AM] Hedman, Dan  
<https://dps.osu.edu/daily-crime-log#crimemap>

[Wednesday 10:08 AM] Spears-McNatt, Kimberly  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4pvUxk1oqw>

[Wednesday 10:12 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda  
Great message!

[Wednesday 10:22 AM] Spears-McNatt, Kimberly  
Thank you Yolanda!

[Wednesday 10:25 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda  
This is important work, thank you for bringing us together.

[Wednesday 10:28 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda  
THank you Prof. Bellair