

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021
9:30 AM via MICROSOFT TEAMS

Dr. McKee, committee Chair, was unable to attend today's meeting due to a schedule conflict. Monica Moll opened the meeting with introductions of the OSU Department of Public Safety staff in the meeting, and then introductions of the Public Safety Advisory Committee members. She noted the two student members who were in the meeting and said she is working on getting new members from the various student groups that had representatives on the committee last academic year.

Dr. Moll reminded the group that a student survey was conducted last spring to learn more about perceptions of safety on and off campus. She said the results have been collected and analyzed, and she would check in with Student Life to see when/how they plan to communicate the results so they can be shared with committee members.

Dr. Moll said off-campus criminal activity has been the primary concern since the last committee meeting. Gun violence is on the rise and offenders seem to be young males, often juveniles. This has been a trend across this city and in most other major cities, and not just a problem in the University District. She reminded the committee that last October President Johnson appointed Senior Vice Presidents Jay Kasey and Melissa Shivers to chair the Task Force on Community Safety and Well Being. That task force produced 15 recommendations that many university and city representatives have been actively working on implementing to improve safety off campus. Some of the highlights of those were reviewed with the committee. Progress on those recommendations can be found here:

<https://ap.osu.edu/community-safety-and-well-being>

A committee member noted they recently saw a media report about extra lighting and cameras being added off campus. Dr. Moll said 10 mobile light towers and 5 mobile camera trailers are being deployed every weekend off-campus in the University District. She also said new CPD Chief Elaine Bryant and Assistant Chief LaShanna Potts met with President Johnson on August 24 to discuss safety off-campus. CPD Chief Bryant advised President Johnson that she would deploy extra police resources to the University District to respond to a recent spike in armed robberies and other crimes in that area. University and CPD representatives then held a press briefing on this topic on September 1, 2021. Information on that briefing can be found here:

https://news.osu.edu/university-leaders-and-columbus-police-discuss-off-campus-safety/?utm_campaign=faes_marketing-activity_fy22&utm_content=1630535826&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

On the topic of safety notices, Dr. Moll said the university began sending off-campus Neighborhood Safety Notices (NSNs) via email for serious crimes against persons in the summer of 2016. As each year has gone by, CPD has improved in their ability to communicate information about these crimes to OSUPD – and this has naturally led to more NSN's being issued with each passing year, even during periods when crime hasn't gone up significantly. That could be leading to the perception that crime has increased more than it has off-campus – but that said, Dr. Moll indicated there has been an *actual* spike in crime in the University District in some serious crime categories in 2021, especially since June. Last year PSAC spent a lot of time going over protocols for safety notices and they were revised slightly through that process. (See October 2020 PSAC meeting notes, and keep in mind these protocols are not

the same for Buckeye Alerts because those are short text messages about possible imminent danger.) Dr. Moll said that often new university senior leaders will request a review of safety notice/alert protocols, and if that occurs at some point in the future, PSAC will be involved. For example, one recent question that has been raised by new leaders is whether the gender of a victim should be used in safety notice emails. Recently a safety course for students was developed, and one of the video segments for the course consisted of a helpful summary of the three kinds of alerts/notices. That short video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmsi6VaDxkc>

OSUPD Chief Spears-McNatt gave an overview of the community engagement activities and diversity training initiatives her OSU police officers have participated in since the last meeting. Dr. Moll said Senior Vice President of Student Life, Dr. Melissa Shivers, recently convened a group of black student leaders from various student groups and hosted CPD Chief Elaine Bryant and Assistant Chief LaShanna Potts so students could discuss their concerns about CPD with new CPD leadership. A student member of PSAC confirmed this and said she attended that meeting. She explained that she felt it was hopeful and promising. CPD's Chief and Assistant Chief pledged to try to continue meeting with this group of students on a monthly basis to hear feedback, report on progress and answer questions.

Dr. Moll updated the committee on the status of the OSU police officer hiring process. A couple members of PSAC helped by participating as panelists in the panel interview portion of the police officer selection process this past year. Many new officers have been hired and at least 10 more are needed. When OSUPD is finished processing the current pool of applicants, the position will be posted for new applicants again, probably at the end of September or beginning of October. The assistance of PSAC members in spreading the word and recruiting qualified applicants will be needed. A link to the job posting will be sent to this committee when it is live.

Dr. Moll invited all PSAC members to get in touch with her if interested in taking a tour of Blankenship Hall where the Department of Public Safety is located, or if they would like to schedule a ride-along with a police officer to learn more about what they do. She also reminded committee members that there is a PSAC page on the DPS website that has all of the previous meeting notes and includes a list of committee members. New student representatives will be added to the PSAC webpage soon.

The next meeting is November 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Attendees: Bob Armstrong, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Margaret Bussard, Doug McGrew, Monica Moll, Paul Bellair, Teya LeBlanc-Hill, Joanna Shaul, Adam Featherling, Satoru Persons, Simone Drake, Tracy Hahn, Yolanda Zepeda, Moetiz Samad, Zaida Jenkins, Townsend Price-Spratlen, Marek Greer, Dan Hedman

PSAC Chat Notes 09.08.21

[9:32 AM] Greer, Marek (Guest)
on a call but wanted to join

[9:55 AM] Armstrong, Robert L.
<https://ap.osu.edu/community-safety-and-well-being>

[10:01 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda

is there a recording of last week's press conference ?

[10:04 AM] Armstrong, Robert L.

https://news.osu.edu/university-leaders-and-columbus-police-discuss-off-campus-safety/?utm_campaign=faes_marketing-activity_fy22&utm_content=1630535826&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

(1 liked)

University leaders and Columbus police discuss off-campus safety

Leadership and police from The Ohio State University joined members of the Columbus Division of Police today to address crime trends in the campus area. Jay Kasey, senior vice president, Office of A...
news.osu.edu

[10:12 AM] LeBlanc-Hill, Teya

It was a great conversation

[10:34 AM] Greer, Marek (Guest)

it was a great tour, highly recommended

[10:37 AM] Zepeda, Yolanda

thank you for supporting this group. here's to a strong year ahead