

## PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

October 12, 2020

1:00 PM via ZOOM

Committee Chair Dr. Jeff McKee opened the meeting and asked if any changes were needed to the notes from the previous meeting. Hearing none, Dr. Monica Moll suggested we begin speeding up the approval of notes from the prior meeting. She said after each meeting, she will send out a draft version of the notes, and will wait one week for any feedback or requested changes before sending out the final version.

PSAC members suggested the committee provide more transparency for members of the university community who want to stay informed of the work of PSAC. Dr. Moll asked the group whether they would be comfortable with a web-page on the DPS website that is devoted to PSAC, listing members' names and contact info, and links to the notes from each meeting. She said she would re-visit this idea at the November meeting to see what the consensus is.

Additionally, Dr. McKee asked for volunteers to serve on a sub-committee to review the information that is currently found on the DPS web-site. Members who want to be involved should email him at [mckee.95@osu.edu](mailto:mckee.95@osu.edu). He is looking for 4-6 volunteers to review what is online regarding all DPS divisions and operations, and suggest improvements to the information shared there. Dr. Moll said Lt. Joanna Shaul of OSU PD and Nicole Holman and Brianna Deckert from the Administration & Planning Communications team were attending today's meeting. They will likely also attend any sub-committee meetings to assist with potential changes to the web-site.

The group discussed the tragedy of the off-campus shooting and death of OSU student Chase Meola the day before, as well as the subsequent arrest of a suspect by the Columbus Division of Police. Dr. Moll said some of the group's suggestions regarding protocol for safety notices from the last PSAC meeting were used in the notices for that incident.

Dr. Moll went over each of the major recommendations for safety notices that originated from the last PSAC meeting, as well as from small group meetings with other concerned university community members that she and Chief Spears-McNatt have attended recently. The list of recommendations that PSAC achieved consensus on in today's meeting are listed below. Dr. Moll will forward these to university leadership and her team will begin using them.

- If the Clery Act requires the university to send a Public Safety Notice for a crime classified as a hate crime, the notice should include a condensed version of the Clery definition of a hate crime in the Public Safety Notice.
  - *Example: A hate crime is defined by the Clery Act as a criminal offense that manifests evidence based on sufficient objective facts that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. The categories of bias in the Clery Act are race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability.*
- If state law classifies the crime in a Public Safety Notice as something other than what the Clery Act classification is, note this in the notice.
  - *Example: While the Clery Act defines this incident as aggravated assault and a hate crime, Ohio law classifies the crimes as felonious assault and assault.*
- Develop a template for describing a hate crime motivated by racial bias in a Public Safety Notice without using the race of the suspect (if there are no other descriptive details to go with it), and without using the race of the victims, while still complying with Clery Act requirements and still stating who the targeted group was. (This will keep these notices consistent with the existing

protocol for never including the race of victims, and only including the race of suspects when a more detailed description is available to go with it.)

- Continue to use photos of suspects in safety notices prior to apprehension IF the photo is a quality image, and IF the person is an actual suspect and not just a person of interest with uncertainty as to whether they are the person responsible for the crime. (This rarely happens, but is an option if we have a good photo and know for sure it is the person we are looking for.)
- Continue to update the university community if an arrest has been made within 2 weeks of a safety notice being issued for a violent crime. Indicate which agency made the arrest, but do not include any information about the arrestee in the notice (no name, booking photo, etc.).
- Conduct an annual review of Buckeye Alerts and safety notices with the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to review notices issued in the prior year and determine whether protocols need adjusted.

When discussing potential topics for future PSAC meetings in the new year, the suggestion was made to invite someone from the Office of Institutional Equity and/or the Office of Student Life to join us to discuss the university's Bias Assessment and Response Team (BART). Dr. Moll explained that many incidents of hate and/or bias do not involve violations of criminal law, and therefore OSU PD would not always be involved in a reporting/investigative role.

The main topic on the agenda for the November meeting will be drafting an OSU DPS Action Plan that affirms their commitment to Black student safety and overall safety. Director Moll shared a few ideas that DPS employees have suggested or have already begun working on, but would like input from PSAC members on other ideas that may be effective in better connecting with under-represented groups on campus and enhancing their sense of safety and belonging. A few of the initiatives Dr. Moll said have been part of the efforts of OSU DPS recently are listed below. Those in italics are complete or are already under way and the others are ideas they would like to implement.

- *Formation of the Public Safety Advisory Committee*
- *Values statement created by the committee for use in training outside law enforcement officers*
- *Improvements in the protocols for safety notices and associated messages*
- *Formation of the internal, employee-led DPS Diversity Council*
- *Recruitment and retention of a diverse staff in DPS, especially in the Police Division*
- *Partnering with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion/Kirwan Institute to develop a training module for OSU police officers that focuses on the history of policing as it relates to the experiences of under-represented and marginalized groups with police*
- Pursuing "advanced" accreditation status for the Police Division
- Holding a special session of the OSU PD Community Police Academy each year with attendance reserved for university community members from under-represented and marginalized groups
- Assigning liaison officers from the OSU Police Division to student organizations for under-represented and marginalized groups and encouraging ride-alongs with police for those who are willing

The next PSAC meeting will be the last meeting for 2020. It will be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Note: Attendance and chat notes are missing from this document due to a family emergency that occurred during the meeting for our administrative assistant.