

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

November 10, 2021

9:30 AM via MICROSOFT TEAMS

Dr. McKee opened the meeting and asked whether anyone would be interested in taking on the role of Chair for this committee. He asked that anyone who might be interested in serving in that role for 2022 let him know. Dr. Moll said the Chair assists with setting the agenda and facilitating meetings and the job is not very time consuming.

The first agenda item discussed was the Annual Security Report, which is typically published by October 1 each year and covers mostly on-campus crime statistics in specified Clery Act crime categories for the previous 3 calendar years. Dan Hedman explained the trends in the 2020 crime statistics. The report contains information for the Columbus campus and all regional campuses and can be found here:

https://dps.osu.edu/sites/default/files/annual_security_fire_safety_report.pdf

A summary of the highlights of the report, as well as an overview of safety resources can be found at this link:

<https://news.osu.edu/university-issues-annual-crime-report-overview-of-safety-resources/>

Dr. Moll added that the university's daily crime log for each campus is also a Clery Act requirement, and it contains more crime categories than the Annual Security Report lists. The daily crime log for each campus can be found here:

<https://dps.osu.edu/daily-crime-log>

Regarding off-campus crime, Dr. Moll explained that there was a spike in crime over the summer in July and August where many of our students live. The three crimes the Columbus Division of Police and the university are tracking most closely in what CPD calls the University District are aggravated assaults, individual robberies, and residential burglaries. Near the end of August, both the university and the city partnered in initiatives to enhance safety in response to this spike in crime. Each week, CPD provides updated crime statistics to the university. President Johnson, other university leaders, OSU DPS and CPD personnel meet weekly to review these statistics, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the extra police patrols, security patrols, additional cameras and additional lighting that have been added to the University District since August. Dr. Moll indicated crime in those three categories has gone down on average about 60% since the security enhancements were implemented in the off-campus neighborhoods our students live in.

Dr. Moll indicated CPD has a link to police reports on their web-page, as well as a fairly comprehensive crime mapping tool. The user can sign up for email alerts for a variety of crimes occurring within a certain radius of their own address or an address of interest to them. They can receive these emails daily, weekly or monthly, and can choose which crimes are included in those email notifications. Dr. Moll said university leadership has been engaging in ongoing discussions about methods of sharing information about off-campus crime, based on feedback received from students, parents of students and employees. Many have expressed that they feel the current Neighborhood Safety Notice method is

not effective, so the university is beginning to consider other options. One option could be frequently pushing out a link to the city's crime mapping tool instead. The image of the crime map at that link would be pre-set to provide more information about off-campus crime than what is normally distributed via safety notices, and would give a visual representation of where crimes have occurred in the University District over the past month. DPS could then also provide information about safety tips that are more closely related to the crime trends occurring. Once the university community member clicks on the link to the pre-set crime map, the user could then customize the map to show more or less crime categories, a different date range, a different geo-fence, and could also sign up for crime alert emails tailored to their specific interests. The mapping tool also has an analytics tab that will produce heat maps, graphs, etc. Dan Hedman shared his screen and showed the committee how these features work.

Dr. Moll asked the committee members what they thought of this tool. The general consensus was that it represented a more robust source of off-campus crime information than Neighborhood Safety Notices provide. However, members cautioned we would need to educate the community on its use. Dr. McKee suggested this tool be introduced to all incoming freshman, perhaps in the introductory course they all have to register for. Dr. Bellair said his students already use the crime map in class and they seem to figure it out quickly. Zaida Jenkins said she would be willing to help survey students about the potential change and/or work with Dan Hedman on developing educational materials to show users how to customize the tool to meet their needs. Dr. Moll said she would update the committee on any progress with this idea at the next PSAC meeting. Any changes to the existing process would likely occur in the spring. Reports taken by the Columbus Division of Police and their community crime map can be found at the links below:

<https://www.columbuspolice.org/reports/SearchLocation>

<https://communitycrimemap.com/>

Dr. Moll gave more details about the security enhancements the university put in place off-campus near the end of the summer. She said 20 mobile light towers and 9 mobile surveillance cameras have been deployed. This is in addition to about 9 fixed-location off-campus cameras that were added over the last couple of years. CPD and OSUPD officers on overtime are doing extra patrols 4 nights a week, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol has also been assisting with an extra presence on the weekends. Non-sworn security teams have been actively patrolling the University District 4-5 nights too. Buckeye Block Watch is a new security initiative where patrollers in bright orange shirts conduct foot, bicycle and vehicle patrols. Buckeye Block Watch is made up of personnel from both Community Crime Patrol and Block by Block. An outside consultant was hired to assist with evaluating the effectiveness of these enhancements. Their report should be delivered to university leadership before the end of the year.

Additional initiatives that the university and city are working on implementing in the spring semester to reduce off-campus crime further were explained. These involve building up a staff of student security employees called Campus Service Officers, returning to joint patrol by assigning OSUPD officers to work their full work-week off-campus paired up with a CPD officer, and adding license plate cameras to key locations in the University District. The license plate cameras are being installed now for a free trial period to determine their effectiveness before purchasing any. Dr. Moll explained that thefts of autos have increased city-wide, and many suspects are using stolen vehicles to commit robberies and burglaries in the University District. License plate readers may alert police of stolen vehicles moving through the area far enough in advance for officers to stop them before further crimes are committed.

Additionally, the university is exploring ways to partner with the city on programs that better address the root causes of crime. Dr. Moll said offenders seem to be getting younger, with suspects as young as middle-school being caught in stolen vehicles and committing armed robberies.

Dr. Moll said OSUPD is still in a constant state of processing applicants for the position of police officer. Many have been hired in the past year and are in various stages of the training process, and a number of others are close to being brought on board. She explained that Chief Spears-McNatt and her team fill vacancies methodically and responsibly so the best candidates are chosen for the job and trained properly.

Chief Spears-McNatt and Dr. Moll briefly reviewed the purpose and use of the Police Division's armored vehicle for those who were new to the committee this year and were not present for last year's discussion on this topic.

Finally, Dr. Moll asked committee members to spread the word about student employment opportunities in the Department of Public Safety. The Campus Service Officer positions are the ideal opportunity for students who think they may be interested in a career in public safety. They can use the position to explore a variety of roles in public safety, learn on the job, and be mentored by experienced professionals.

The next PSAC meeting is February 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of February, April, July (optional), September and November from 9:30-11:00. Before the end of this year, Claudia Bonham will send out meeting invitations for the four meetings in 2022 and the optional summer meeting.

Attendees: Adam Featherling, Amy Young, Bob Armstrong, Jeffrey McKee, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Margaret Bussard, Doug McGrew, Mike Mandelkorn, Monica Moll, Njeri Kagotho, Paul Bellair, Satoru Persons, Simone Drake, Townsend Price-Spratlen, Tracy Hahn, Joanna Shaul, Dan Hedman, Marek Greer, Zaida Jenkins; Moetiz Samad.

PSAC Chat Notes 11.10.21

[9:40 AM] Greer, Marek
does the press release note covid impact on the numbers being down? might be useful if they rise

[9:41 AM] Hedman, Dan
<https://news.osu.edu/university-issues-annual-crime-report-overview-of-safety-resources/>
University issues annual crime report, overview of safety resources
The Ohio State University released today its Annual Security and Fire Safety reports. Most crime categories on or near the Columbus campus showed a significant decrease in 2020, as the university a...

[9:41 AM] Hedman, Dan
https://dps.osu.edu/sites/default/files/annual_security_fire_safety_report.pdf

[9:41 AM] Samad, Moetiz Y.

Thank you very much for the information, Dan. A couple of questions - if a sexual assault were to occur elsewhere in 2000, but is reported to our hall staff in 2021, does that count towards our numbers in the halls?

[9:42 AM] Samad, Moetiz Y.

Additionally, with a lot of attention on safety and security this academic year, are we looking at in the moment data to compare to previous non-covid years?

Thank you all for the clarification! Great work, honestly!

[10:00 AM] Greer, Marek

i like it, great idea

[10:06 AM] Samad, Moetiz Y.

To both of your points, Dan and Zaida, is it more so that there is a disconnect about the amount of communication between students and their loved ones. Where as students feel safer and loved ones from a distance are a bit more hesitant

[10:28 AM] Hedman, Dan

I need to drop off. Thanks all!

We got the MRAP 2013

[10:58 AM] Greer, Marek

thank you!!