

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

February 21, 2024

9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

Director Monica Moll began the meeting by reviewing the organizational structure of the Department of Public Safety for the benefit of new committee members. She summarized the staffing levels and purpose of each of the five divisions in the department. She explained OSUPD's jurisdictional limits and the parameters within the mutual aid agreement with the Columbus Division of Police that allow OSUPD to have jurisdiction off-campus in limited circumstances.

Next OSUPD Deputy Chief Dennis Jeffrey spoke about on and off-campus crime trends. Director Moll listed the crime categories that are monitored most closely in the off-campus areas, and stated crime both on and off campus were trending down significantly compared to last year at this time. Deputy Chief Dennis Jeffrey reminded the group that crime tends to increase during warmer weather, so he expected more criminal incidents to occur in the remaining months of the semester than has occurred since our last committee meeting.

Director Moll explained the laws and university policies that govern the carrying of firearms on university property. She said university employees and students are prohibited by policy from possessing firearms on campus. She said Ohio law allows people to openly carry a firearm on campus in the outdoor spaces. Concealed carry in most cases is not permitted on university property, with the exception of law enforcement officers. She said any law enforcement officer in an on-duty capacity is generally permitted to carry a weapon openly or concealed anywhere on campus. She gave various examples where on-duty personnel from agencies other than OSUPD might be on campus. Off-duty carry for law enforcement officers is a bit more complicated and varies by the agency the officer is employed by and the reason they are on campus. She explained those parameters. She encouraged anyone with questions to call her to discuss further. She said anytime someone sees a person with a firearm on campus and is concerned about safety, they should call OSUPD and notify them. Officers will respond to ensure safety and adherence to law and policy. A committee member brought up a recent example where an academic department coordinated to have an out-of-state law enforcement agency come to campus for a recruiting event in an academic building. They were in uniform, on duty, and armed. Some students and faculty noticed this and were concerned. The committee member noted that the presence of police officers made some community members in that building feel less safe. Director Moll said she communicated with the people who organized that event after the fact and advised them to contact OSU DPS in the future to notify them of events like this for awareness, and so she can make sure appropriate laws and policies are being followed. A committee member who works in that academic department said they believed the department has also committed to notifying students and faculty in the future of these events ahead of time.

Director of Emergency Management Bob Armstrong discussed the preparation going on at the regional campuses for the solar eclipse coming up on April 8. Some of OSU's regional campuses are in locations where the viewing of the eclipse will be better than what will be seen from the Columbus campus, so they are anticipating having to manage a large number of visitors to the area. While it will likely be business as usual for the most part on the Columbus and Newark campuses, some of the regional campuses that are more directly in the path of a total eclipse may be transitioning to virtual classes instead of in-person on that date.

The next PSAC meeting will occur on Wednesday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m. via Teams.

Attendees: Andre Brown, Amy Young, Katie Klakos, Cortney Brewer, Tasha Perdue, Lindsay Logue, Townsend Price-Spratlin, Jorge Clavo-Abbass, Marek Greer, Olivia LeRoux, Angela Bryant, Paul Bellair, Amy Hurley, Adam Featherling, Dennis Jeffrey, Margaret Phillips, Monica Moll, Doug McGrew, Satoru Persons, Robert Armstrong, Dan Hedman

PSAC Chat Notes 02.21.24

9:24 AM Meeting started

9:53AM Phillips, Margaret
Non-emergency Police # is 614-292-2121

10:10 AM Logue, Lindsay
Thank you!

10:12AM Meeting ended: 48m 46s