

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

September 13, 2023

9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

Director Monica Moll opened the meeting by saying several committee members had reached out to say they were ill and would not be able to attend the meeting this time. She went over a brief history of PSAC for new members, and reminded everyone that there is a web-page for the committee that lists members and has links to the notes from prior meetings.

Director Moll explained that the OSU Department of Public Safety consists of five divisions, even though most of the topics the committee discusses involve the Police Division. She said she wanted to start introducing the other divisions to the committee. She then turned it over to Ryan Westenbarger for an overview of the Wexner Medical Center Security Services Division. Ryan is an Assistant Director for WMC Security. He reviewed the size of the division and went over their operations. The division is made up of five units – uniformed security officers (who are not police officers), security training and education, a communications and dispatching center, access control, and a security projects/technology team. Security officers respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service and patrol all WMC facilities. When police assistance is needed, they call OSUPD. Director Moll explained that there is also an OSUPD police officer assigned to each of the two Emergency Departments at the WMC to support the work of security officers.

Director Moll reviewed a few recent serious criminal incidents that occurred on and off campus, including an on-campus armed robbery of a student which prompted a Public Safety Notice, as well as a follow-up to that notice to announce an arrest had been made. Those can be found here:

<https://dps.osu.edu/psn/public-safety-notice-columbus-september-6-2023>

<https://dps.osu.edu/news/2023/09/08/public-safety-notice-updated-arrest-made>

Director Moll reminded the committee of the guidelines for on-campus safety notices and arrest updates that this committee worked on back in October of 2020. She said these same protocols were followed for the most recent safety notice and arrest update. She referred new committee members to the meeting notes on the PSAC webpage from October of 2020 to review the protocols.

She also briefly reviewed the various methods used to keep the community informed of on-campus incidents, as well as the ways people can stay informed about off-campus incidents. She said there are videos available that also explain this. Those can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih7ubdcQbA0&list=PLolm05QR-7dUmYrmBCHvnsiUIUxvGqB7d&index=11&t=20s>

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

Director Moll reviewed both on and off campus crime trends. She said crime was down 25% on campus and down 30% off campus when comparing Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2023. She said even though total crime was down year over year, she was still concerned with the number of crimes involving

firearms and crimes involving juveniles with firearms. She said many current OSU students and parents of students had been reaching out to university and city leaders since August to express concerns about safety. Director Moll said university leadership has been fully engaged in working with both OSU DPS and the Columbus Division of Police to evaluate all of the security enhancements that had been made in the past two years, and they are working on adding additional enhancements this academic year. She said she anticipated an announcement would be made this week on this topic. That announcement was made the following day and can be found here:

<https://dps.osu.edu/news/2023/09/14/ohio-state-news-alert-new-resources-enhance-community-safety>

Director Moll said one of the additional enhancements would involve adding police officer positions to OSUPD, so the university would be doing a job posting for the position from September 15 – October 16. She said there were also several openings for security officers in both the Central Campus Security Services Division and the Wexner Medical Center Security Services Division. She asked committee members to spread the word about the open positions and assist in recruiting qualified applicants. More information can be found about the police officer positions and the selection process here:

<https://dps.osu.edu/police-careers>

The next PSAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m. via Teams.

Attendees: Andre Brown, Tasha Perdue, Townsend Price-Spratlen, Amy Hurley, Marek Greer, Jorge Ernesto Clavo Abbass, Cortney Brewer, Alex Bolt, Monica Moll, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Dennis Jeffrey, Eric Whiteside, Margaret Phillips, Robert Armstrong, Doug McGrew, Adam Featherling, Joanna Shaul, Dan Hedman, Ryan Westenbarger

PSAC Chat Notes 09.13.23

9/13 9:24 AM Meeting started

[9/13 9:43 AM] Greer, Marek
with the new hospital, what do you expect your numbers to grow to and timeline of hiring?

[9/13 9:57 AM] Westenbarger, Ryan
Thank you for the kind words, Amy. We will make sure to pass your feedback along to our team.

9/13 10:21 AM Meeting ended: 59m 49s