

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

September 14, 2022

9:30 AM via MICROSOFT TEAMS

New Committee Chair, Dr. Paul Bellair, opened the meeting by introducing himself, followed by introductions by other new committee members.

Director Moll gave an update on progress made over the summer with off-campus security enhancements. She said all of the mobile light towers have been removed from the University District due to permanent lighting enhancements made by the city in those areas. She explained that Buckeye Block Watch was now staffed solely by employees from Block by Block, and that Buckeye Block Watch and student Campus Service Officers now patrol the University District every night of the week. Additionally, over 60 License Plate Readers (LPR's) were installed both on and off campus and have become a valuable tool for both Columbus and OSU police officers in identifying stolen vehicles that are circulating the area and being used to commit other crimes. Also new over the summer was the re-staffing of Joint Patrol. Three OSU police officers have been assigned full-time to work alongside CPD officers in the evening hours in the University District. A new on-campus security enhancement that occurred over the summer was the installation of surveillance cameras in all university parking garages.

Director Moll encouraged committee members to sign up for off-campus crime alerts on the Lexis Nexis Community Crime Map. She said users can request that an email be sent to them daily that lists the crimes they select to be notified of. She explained that the university is also pushing out on social media a link to the crime map on a weekly basis. The pre-set map at that link now includes many more crime categories than it had previously displayed, and displays the crimes that have occurred over the past 7 days rather than the past month.

Director Moll reviewed on and off-campus crime trends. For on-campus crime, she said catalytic converter thefts and stolen vehicles had trended higher in Fiscal Year 2022 than previous years, and this was a trend nationwide. Other on-campus crime categories were in the normal range. Off-campus crime in the University District has remained stable over the past year since the off-campus safety enhancements were started in September of 2021, cutting violent crime in those areas in half. Even still, stolen vehicles remain a problem and are higher than previous years.

OSUPD Deputy Chief Dennis Jeffrey gave an overview of the new crowd control tactics that the Columbus Division of Police was exploring. They sent staff to Europe and are working with a researcher in England to learn about alternative crowd control methods. They are interested in partnering with OSU faculty to study tactics here in Columbus and improve their ability to stop individuals in a crowd who are destroying property or injuring others, without interrupting the ability of peaceful protestors to demonstrate.

Chief Spears-McNatt gave an overview of recent community engagement activities that OSUPD officers have been engaged in. She said every academic year during the first 2 weeks of classes in the fall, her

officers are all in uniform and are focused on highly visible patrols and engagement with the community. She said the Police Division purchased three new electric bikes for officers to patrol campus in a way that allows for more interaction with students. She said Coffee with a Cop sessions at the Ohio Union have been well-received, and police officers were present at the Student Involvement Fair to interact and answer questions. She has assigned an officer as a liaison with each athletic team to encourage problem solving and engagement, similar to the liaisons assigned to residence halls. The Chief attended a Coffee with a Cop event at the Newark Campus herself, and she also attended an event at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to meet students and discuss their safety concerns.

OSUPD Lieutenant Joanna Shaul reviewed recent diversity training initiatives. She reminded the committee that early in 2022 all police supervisors were required to attend a 6-week online training program by the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and she indicated newly promoted supervisors would be attending that same program soon. Also in 2022, all DPS employees attended an 8-hour training module developed in partnership with the Kirwan Institute which covered the “hard history” of policing, implicit bias, and navigating difficult conversations related to race and policing. She said the Police Division was already working with university experts on preparing the next step in diversity training for 2023. She said OSUPD would be partnering with Dr. Simone Drake and Dr. Stephen Quaye and will have more to share in the new year on the topics selected.

Director Moll updated the group on hiring within DPS. She said every single DPS division has open positions. The Police Division has 4 more officers to hire to reach their authorized strength of 70 sworn police officers, and a selection process is underway now.

Director Moll reminded the group that the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report would be published by October 1 in compliance with the Clery Act. She said local media typically do stories on the crime stats contained within that report when it is released, and a link to the report is sent via email to all university community members.

Finally, Director Moll reviewed a couple recent small protests/demonstrations that have occurred on or near campus and discussed the typical ways OSU DPS supports those activities to ensure everyone remains safe.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m. via Teams.

Attendees: Monica Moll, Margaret Phillips, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Dennis Jeffrey, Eric Whiteside, Bob Armstrong, Doug McGrew, Satoru Persons, Mike Mandelkorn, Adam Featherling, Dan Hedman, Amy Young, Paul Bellair, Kelly Smith, Christopher Taylor, Njeri Kagotho, Townsend Price-Spratlen, Amy Hurley, Joanna Shaul, Simone Drake, Andre Brown, Abigail Berk, Bruce Allen, Madison Mason.

PSAC Chat Notes 09.14.22

[9/14 9:51 AM] Armstrong, Robert L.

<http://go.osu.edu/crimemap>

LexisNexis® Community Crime Map

[9/14 9:51 AM] Hedman, Dan

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

Daily Crime Log | Department of Public Safety

Scroll down. Follow instructions. There is a "how to" video you can watch to sign up.

[9/14 10:13 AM] Hedman, Dan

Joint patrol story: <https://dps.osu.edu/news/2022/08/25/joint-patrol-increases-campus-police-presence>

Joint Patrol Increases Off-Campus Police Presence | Department of Public Safety

[9/14 10:13 AM] McGrew, Douglas

For more information about all the great things OCCSE is doing for our students, visit:

<https://offcampus.osu.edu/>

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement

[9/14 10:13 AM] Smith, Kelly

Apologies - stepping away briefly for a call. BRB

[9/14 10:18 AM] Shaul, Joanna

<https://www.civilandhumanrights.org/repair-course-for-law-enforcement/>

The REPAIR Course - National Center for Civil and Human Rights

[9/14 10:41 AM] Spears-McNatt, Kimberly

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

Police Careers | Department of Public Safety

[9/14 10:55 AM] Smith, Kelly

Thanks Director Moll. You run a good meeting! Appreciate hearing from everyone!