

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

November 8, 2023

9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

Director Moll began the meeting by updating committee members on the progress toward achieving full staffing in the Police Division. She reminded the committee that OSUPD has a relatively new authorized strength of 75 police officers. She said they have 9 vacancies to fill and at least two anticipated retirements in 2024, so she is anticipating needing to hire 11 police officers in the new year. She said the current group of applicants is in the early stages of the selection process, and the process is expected to wrap up in April. She described a few small changes that were made to the selection process this time that were aimed at retaining more of the applicants throughout the process. She said at the April committee meeting she would be able to tell committee members whether any of those changes appeared to have made a difference in the number or quality of applicants. She expected there would be a need to post the police officer position again in early 2024 to obtain more applicants. The other four divisions in the Department of Public Safety also have vacancies and job postings.

Director Moll discussed some possible topics for public safety diversity training in 2024. She asked the group for suggestions on other topics and/or subject matter experts who could assist in training the public safety staff. Chief Spears-McNatt described one of the training modules she and her officers just completed. One committee member expressed the importance of tying these topics to public trust and police legitimacy. Director Moll invited committee members to think it over and call or email her with topic ideas or offers to use their expertise to assist.

Director Moll reviewed the safety protocols the university has in place for demonstrations, protests, and marches on campus. She said the staff in the Department of Public Safety play an important role in protecting the First Amendment rights of groups and individuals on campus. She said she and other university officials have met recently with groups who have organized demonstrations and events related to the Israel-Hamas war to explain university space rules on campus and the lawful limits to their freedom of expression. In these meetings, students were encouraged to report any threats of violence they receive at their events or otherwise. She said there are typically police officers present at protests and demonstrations to ensure safety.

On and off campus crime statistics were reviewed. Chief Spears-McNatt said the theft of personally owned e-bikes and scooters are going up on campus as more and more students bring those modes of transportation to campus with them, and catalytic converter thefts from motor vehicles are still higher than she would like to see. Director Moll said major off-campus crime is down more than 25% in the first quarter of the present fiscal year compared to the same period last year.

Lastly Director Moll talked about the drone incident during the Maryland home football game on October 7 that required the game to stop momentarily. She explained that there is a new NCAA rule this year that play must stop if a drone flies over the field during the game while players are on the field. There is a temporary flight restriction from the FAA during all home football games in Ohio Stadium, so it is illegal to fly a drone over the stadium. The university is currently testing a drone detection system that allows police to locate a drone operator to bring drones down in a more timely manner, and will likely be selecting and purchasing a system before next season.

The next PSAC meeting will occur in February. Margaret Phillips will send out a doodle poll to committee members in early December to determine what days of the week and time would be best for the meetings in 2024.

Attendees: Andre Brown, Amy Young, Katie Klakos, Cortney Brewer, Tasha Perdue, Lindsay Logue, Townsend Price-Spratlin, Christopher Taylor, Jorge Clavo-Abbass, Adam Featherling, Dennis Jeffrey, Margaret Phillips, Monica Moll, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Robert Armstrong, Bruce Allen, Michael Mandelkorn, Dan Hedman

PSAC Chat Notes 11.08.23

9:26 AM Meeting started

10:21 AM Klakos, Katie
Thank you!

10:21 AM Meeting ended: 55m 17s