

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

November 9, 2022

9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

Director Moll opened the meeting by addressing questions submitted in advance by a member of the committee representing USG. One pertained to recent incidents of antisemitic graffiti and stickers being posted near campus. Director Moll said this appears to be a nationwide trend, and noted incidents like this seem to ramp up before elections. The OSU Police Division takes reports in these cases, even when no criminal offense has been committed. These reports are passed on to contacts in the FBI, and OSUPD stays in communication with federal, state and local law enforcement partners about the activity of extremist groups around campus. Additionally, a Police Division representative will typically reach out to university organizations affiliated with the targeted group to make sure they are aware of the incidents and to see if they have any upcoming events that they will need additional security for. Director Moll said the Police Division follows this same general protocol with any group that is targeted by hate propaganda.

The second topic pertained to alternatives to a police response for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis on campus or those who are victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment. For mental health calls for service, Director Moll explained that all of OSU's police officers are required to undergo an initial 40 hours of training on responding to calls involving people in crisis, and then additional ongoing training to ensure they are skilled in utilizing de-escalation techniques and understand the resources available for those in crisis. She said thus far in the first 10 months of 2022, OSUPD has responded to about 205 calls like this, and said this is a small percentage of the total number of incidents of persons experiencing a mental health crisis on campus. She explained that professionals in OSU's Counseling & Consultation Service, the Wexner Medical Center, and mental health care providers not affiliated with the university routinely handle incidents like this without the need for police involvement. She said under Ohio law, police officers have the ability to take someone into custody and get them to a hospital for an evaluation by a mental health professional if the person who is experiencing a mental health crisis represents a substantial risk of physical harm to themselves or someone else. Sometimes mental health providers have to involve police in the response when the person in crisis meets this criteria and they seem unwilling or unlikely to go get the mental health evaluation they need on their own. A committee member representing OSU's Counseling & Consultation Service agreed with the notion that mental health professionals most often assist people in crisis and connect them with additional resources without needing to involve police. Director Moll said at this time personnel are not available for a 24/7 joint response to mental health calls for service consisting of both a mental health professional and a police officer, but leaders in the Police Division are open to the idea of a joint response when police are needed, should the resources ever become available. A committee member representing faculty asked if data were available on the total number of mental health crises on campus to compare to the number that OSUPD become involved in. Director Moll said a single source of data likely doesn't exist since so many different mental health providers service the university community. However, she asked the committee member representing OSU's Counseling & Consultation Service if they could check to see if aggregate data was available regarding the number of students who utilize their services annually. If that data is available, Director Moll said the committee member could do a short presentation of that information at a future committee meeting.

For incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment, Director Moll explained police are usually only involved if the survivor wants them to be. Many more reports of this nature come in to other professionals on campus, like employees in the Office of Institutional Equity, than to police. The other entities who offer support resources to survivors always advise them of their reporting options, including police if it is a criminal incident, and also make the police aware of the general nature of criminal incidents for statistical purposes. However, police officers typically do not proactively contact survivors because we want to allow them to make the decision of whether they want the police to investigate the incident or not.

Director Moll briefly discussed a couple recent TikTok videos posted by students. One was posted by a student who was alarmed by a suspicious white minivan that had passed her on campus, fearing the men inside may have wanted to do her harm. Another was about the antisemitic stickers near campus. This led to a discussion about the safety resources available to students who walk on campus after dark. Bob Armstrong and Dan Hedman described the resources available like the Rave Guardian app, Lyft Ride Smart, CABS on demand, and personal safety devices, and Dan posted links to more information on each one in the chat. (See chat section at the end of this document.)

Director Moll discussed off-campus crime statistics in the University District. She said the three major crimes of aggravated assault, robbery to an individual and residential burglary continue to be reported at a rate that is about half the number of incidents that were being reported in the summer of 2021. She said she believes the security enhancements that were put in place in the fall of 2021 assisted in driving the crime down in that area of the city, and in maintaining that decrease in crime. She said the City of Columbus recently added four more surveillance cameras to the University District, allowing OSU DPS to re-deploy a few mobile camera trailers to other areas on campus. Chief Spears-McNatt said on-campus crime is trending better than last year, but she is still concerned with the number of bicycle thefts, theft of catalytic converters from cars, and stolen autos on campus. The Chief also said she continues to see reports of students being scammed. She cautioned against sharing too much personal information in social media forums, and against sharing credit card information or other personal details with people you do not know or companies you have not vetted.

Director Moll said OSU DPS is preparing for Michigan week. Mirror Lake will be drained soon to take care of annual plant maintenance, and communications staff will send party-smart information out to students. OSUPD's law enforcement partners will be planning to protect fans, the officials and the opposing team, band and coaches in event of a field rush if OSU wins.

Chief Spears-McNatt and Lieutenant Bruce Allen discussed a series of recent community engagement activities conducted by the Police Division. They also explained that the Community Police Academy is going on now for the next few weeks on Wednesday evenings. They invited committee members to participate in the spring installment of the Community Police Academy, and asked that they contact the Chief if interested. Director Moll mentioned a Toys for Tots toy drive going on until Dec. 9. Information about that was also included in the chat.

Lieutenant Shaul discussed progress on the next step in diversity training for OSU DPS. She said Dr. Simone Drake (a committee member) has given valuable feedback on the best ways to organize and deliver this kind instruction, and they will be working with her and others throughout the winter to develop a module of training for 2023. Lt. Shaul said two more people in DPS have volunteered to be instructors in the next round, crediting that to the success of the first installment of the training in 2022. Three topic areas being considered for inclusion next year include “Human Relations and Interpersonal Communication Skills,” “Histories Matter,” and “Influencing Others In Self Consciousness.”

Staff Sergeant Adam Featherling talked about recent active threat training that was held on the Newark campus. There is an academic building on that campus that is going to be demolished, so they were able to use the building as a training venue to simulate an active shooter incident in a real academic structure without disrupting work or classes. Over 100 officers were trained in a matter of 2 weeks, including all OSUPD officers, and some officers from Bexley PD, Grandview Heights PD and Lima PD.

Lt. Shaul reviewed the Police Division’s progress toward advanced accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). OSUPD currently holds the basic level of accreditation, but is pursuing the advanced level. She explained that this means OSUPD will be required to prove compliance with 458 standards of professionalism, compared to 180 standards in the basic program.

Meeting times and dates for 2023 were discussed. This committee typically meets at 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of February, April, September and November, with an optional meeting in July. Director Moll said if she does not hear any objections from committee members prior to December, Margaret Phillips will send out calendar invitations for Teams meetings on those dates for 2023.

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

PSAC Chat Notes 11.09.22

[9:55 AM] Mason, Madison M.

If we have any additional time there's also something I wanted to discuss very quickly!

[9:59 AM] Samad, Moetiz

I would also echo this sentiment from a Housing and Residence Education standpoint. Our staff tries to work with the student and campus partners to help in crisis. At times that may lead to OSUPD outreach, but often times we are able to lean on other resources to help the student in crisis.

[10:03 AM] Hedman, Dan

Rave Guardian: <https://dps.osu.edu/rave-guardian>
Rave Guardian | Department of Public Safety

[10:04 AM] Hedman, Dan

Lyft Ride Smart: <https://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>
Lyft Ride Smart at Ohio State | Transportation and Traffic Management

[10:04 AM] Hedman, Dan

CABS On-Demand: <https://ttm.osu.edu/on-demand>
CABS On-Demand | Transportation and Traffic Management

[10:04 AM] Hedman, Dan

Free Personal Safety Devices: <https://offcampus.osu.edu/resources/safety/>
Safety : Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement

[10:06 AM] Hedman, Dan

Safety Resources: <https://dps.osu.edu/resources>
Safety Resources | Department of Public Safety

[10:07 AM] Hedman, Dan

Messaging Toolkit: <https://dps.osu.edu/resources/safety-communications-toolkit>
Safety Communications Toolkit | Department of Public Safety

[10:08 AM] Hedman, Dan

hedman.11@osu.edu

[10:08 AM] Shockley McCarthy, Karla

Dan - an infographic that we could send out would be very helpful to disseminate these resources

[10:09 AM] Hedman, Dan

That is on the toolkit as well, here you go!
https://dps.osu.edu/sites/default/files/safety_tips_and_fact_sheet.pdf

[10:10 AM] Shockley McCarthy, Karla

Thank you!!!!

[10:10 AM] Hedman, Dan

you're very welcome 😊

[10:21 AM] Hedman, Dan

Photos from Community Police Academy:

<https://twitter.com/OSUPOLICE/status/1588538618368462851?s=20&t=4NrdDSErSfa-THNqn954jg>

[10:29 AM] Hedman, Dan

Details for Toys for Tots! Donate by Dec. 9

[10:29 AM] Hedman, Dan

<https://dps.osu.edu/news/2022/10/31/donate-toys-tots-dec-9>

Donate to Toys for Tots by Dec. 9 | Department of Public Safety

[10:32 AM] Hedman, Dan

I need to drop off. Thank you!

[10:37 AM] Spears-McNatt, Kimberly

We are always looking for volunteers to be role players.

[10:39 AM] Smith, Kelly

Chief - I am happy to ask whether any members of the Student Conduct team or our University Conduct Board can volunteer as role players.

[10:40 AM] Spears-McNatt, Kimberly

Kelly- Yes, we would welcome all volunteers.

[10:43 AM] Armstrong, Robert L.

Sorry - Need to run - my apologies

[10:46 AM] Shaul, Joanna

CALEA list of standards - <https://www.calea.org/node/11406>

Law Enforcement - Standards Titles | CALEA® | The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

[10:46 AM] Allen, Bruce

<https://www.calea.org/node/11406#:~:text=The%20tier%20%20option%2C%20CALEA,all%20the%20458%20standards%20listed.>

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[10:47 AM] Shaul, Joanna

Standard (Tier 1) - 180 standards - Advanced (Tier 2) - 458 standards

[10:49 AM] Berk, Abigail L.

Thank you for explaining!