



January 2019

New Chief, Deputy Chief Sworn In

Kimberly Spears-McNatt sworn in as the 11th Chief in OSUPD's history and the agency's first female chief of police. Tracy Hahn was sworn in as Deputy Chief.

February 2018

Crime Prevention/Behavioral Assessment Unit

A second officer was added to the Crime Prevention/Behavioral Assessment Unit to assist the campus community.

October 2017

Distinguished Law Enforcement Achievement Awards

At the Law Enforcement Conference, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine honored OSUPD Officer Alan Horujko with the Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award and the OSUPD Ordinance Team with the Distinguished Law Enforcement Training Award.

July 2017

Increased Staffing

Six new officers were added to the OSUPD, bringing the total authorized strength to 56 sworn police officers.

December 2016

Body Worn Cameras

A pilot on the Columbus campus of body-worn video was expanded to the six campuses.



November 2016

Record-breaking Attendance

The double-overtime win against the Team Up North was enjoyed by a record-breaking Ohio Stadium attendance of 110,045. Fans were giving public safety officials high-fives on the field, and no arrests were needed during the post-game celebration.



October 2016

Community Police Academy

The first Community Police Academy launches. CPA is a free four-week program designed to give eligible students, faculty and staff an idea of what it's like to protect and serve on campus.



September 2016

Patrol Districts

Cruiser districts, specific geographic areas, were implemented in an effort to improve response times to high priority calls for service.

August 2016

First Female Deputy Chief

Alumna Kimberly Spears-McNatt, who joined the OSUPD in 1994, was promoted as its first female deputy chief. She holds a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's from Franklin University.

July 2016

Republican National Convention (RNC)

OSUPD Special Response Team (SRT) assisted the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Division of Police and law enforcement officers from across the country in keeping Cleveland safe and protected during the RNC.

July 2016

CALEA Reaccreditation

OSUPD received its first reaccreditation award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). This award demonstrates a continuing commitment to professional excellence in policy and practice.

September 2015

Surviving an Active Shooter

The university released a video highlighting safety strategies in case of an active shooter event. It garnered a Regional Emmy Award. As of January 2018, it received more than 1 million views on YouTube.



August 2015

Ohio Collaborative Certification

New standards were implemented for use of force, police recruitment, hiring, retention. The OSUPD quickly gained certification, demonstrating its commitment to following law enforcement best practices.

2015

Expanded Bike Unit

The bike patrol was reinvigorated with new equipment and training for all OSUPD officers.



July 2013

CALEA Accreditation

OSUPD received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), confirming that OSUPD is meeting internationally recognized best practices of law enforcement agency standards for colleges and universities. In addition, the Columbus Division of Police and OSUPD co-hosted the CALEA 2013 Summer Conference, which was attended by more than 500 public safety officials from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Barbados.



September 2013

Police Presence at all Regional Campuses

OSUPD completed its deployment of law enforcement officers on each of the regional campuses, hiring a sergeant to serve at Lima.

2013

Motorcycle Unit

Officers focused on traffic enforcement, were easily noticeable, and were actively engaged with pedestrians. The program was eliminated in 2017 because of lack of funding.



2012

Internships and Mentoring

OSUPD begins offering internship and mentoring opportunities to Student Safety employees.

2012

OSUPD-CPD Mutual Aid Agreement

The agreement was expanded to allow university enforcement in off-campus neighborhoods for emergencies and in certain categories of offenses.

2012

Mounted Unit

Initiated as a crime prevention initiative and has proven quite popular. Officers patrol and attend university and community programs and events.



2009

Enhanced 9-1-1 System

The 9-1-1 system was modernized to be compliant with updated federal mandates.

Autumn 2008

Joint Policing Project

OSUPD and Columbus Division of Police partnered to patrol the student neighborhoods east of High Street year-round. The project demonstrates the commitment of both agencies to collaboratively address shared crime.

July 2008

First Business Director

Donna Smith was hired as the first Business Director.

January 2008

Buckeye Alert System

The first Buckeye Alert System Test was performed with 8,758 students, 2,497 staff, 2,134 parents, 592 faculty and 292 others registered. This test was designed to allow the public to be informed of potential emergencies.

May 2007

Crime Analyst Hired

The new crime analyst provided information about crime trends and collaborated with other state and local law enforcement agencies to share information.

2007

Officer Physical Fitness Incentive

Program encouraged fitness, for both officers and their families.

Summer 2005

Ohio Stadium Gets Security Cameras

Ohio Stadium cameras are included.

Autumn 2004

Crime Interdiction

Beginning in 2004, OSUPD and Columbus Police (CPD) teamed up during the academic year to focus on student safety in the east of High Street campus area. The project was funded by The Ohio State University Department of Public Safety.

February 2004

First K-9

OSUPD's first K-9, Catto, joined the force, trained to search for suspects, detect explosives, and protect his handler.



February 10, 1997

Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

OSUPD Officer Michael Blankenship was shot in the line of duty in the Wexner Center for the Arts. Blankenship Hall was later renamed in his honor.



Spring 1995

President Clinton and Vice President Gore Visit

President Clinton and Vice President Gore visited the Wexner Center and were escorted by the Personal Protection Team.



January 1995

Reducing the Risk

Reducing the Risk Program was initiated with a custom database for recording and tracking university assets not normally recorded for insurance purposes. Many of the items documented have a historical artistic or monetary value that is part of the university.

1994

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)

OSUPD provides this free program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques to women, including awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and hands-on defense training.

Summer 1980

Traditional Style Uniform

The OSUPD returned to the traditional style Police uniform, dark blue in color. The traditional exterior badge, name plate, and whistle were to be worn in plain view.



September 1978

OSUPD Reduces Number of Officers

The OSUPD went from the all-time high of 79 commissioned police officers in 1974 to 44 commissioned police officers. The Department of Public Safety was now again called the Police Department.

June 1978

Guidelines Define Jurisdiction

Director of Public Safety Alan J. Miller wrote guidelines that in effect confined OSUPD to campus. University Police could no longer pursue outside its jurisdiction. The only exception to this rule was in direct pursuit of a felon.

1977

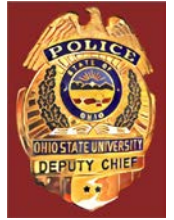
Special Response Team (SRT) Established

Originally called the Counter Weapon Team, this tactical unit consists of carefully selected, highly trained and skilled police officers to respond to specific critical, dangerous, and potentially dangerous events.

1974

Police Badge

A new badge was adopted, setting it apart from common badges worn by many agencies in the Columbus area. An essential element was that the word “university” was spelled out instead of being abbreviated.



October 1972

Blue Light Emergency Phones

An initiative of the OSUPD and Public Safety, the Columbus campus was the first in the nation to have blue light emergency phones. As of October 2017, that number had increased to 209, both on and off campus.



October 1970

Hanna Appointed, Department Renamed

Donald G. Hanna was appointed as the first Public Safety Director. The Police Department became known as Department of Public Safety.

1970

LEADS Terminal

A LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) Terminal allowed the Department to be connected to all Ohio and National Police agencies.

1970s

Personal Protection Team

Established to protect visiting dignitaries and high-profile members of the community.

1970s

Hostage Negotiation Team

OSUPD staff were trained to establish and maintain communications with people who have taken hostages, barricaded themselves, or created a situation requiring a negotiator, such as a suicide threat.

September 25, 1968

Program to Reevaluate OSUPD

University President Fawcett initiated a program to reevaluate the Police Department in manpower needs, salary scale, selection and training of personnel, and promotion practices.



July 1962

First Female Hired by OSUPD

The Ohio State University Police Division hired its first policewoman, Norma J. Walker. She was heralded as the first female campus officer in the Big Ten and one of the first in the country.



August 1959

“Handi Talkie” Portable Radios

All Police Officers that patrolled the campus carried the new “Handi Talkie” portable radio, ranking the Police Department as one of the best equipped suburban departments in Franklin County.



April 1, 1942

First Police Chief

James L. Beck was appointed as the first Police Chief, and two more Police Officers were added to the force. The authorized strength was now 9, including 4 Night Watchmen. A marked police cruiser was purchased.



1927

Olentangy River Floods

The Olentangy River flooded, causing widespread damage on campus. Water was 5’ deep at what was later to become the Woody Hayes Drive and Tuttle Park intersection.



1925

First Parking Citation Issued During a Football Game

Officer North handed out the first parking citation to “relieve traffic congestion on campus caused by the automobiles” during a football game.

October 11, 1918

University Closes for the First Time

The Ohio State University closed for the first time in its history, fearing an influenza epidemic. Several large trees were uprooted around Mirror Lake because of a windstorm that hit Columbus.

January 1911

Day Policeman and Night Watchman Force Increase

Located in the Physical Plant, the Day Policeman force was increased to two Police Officers, and the Night Watchman force was increased to four.

August 7, 1909

First Day Police Officer

President Thompson appointed the first Day Police Officer, John Ricketts, along with an additional Night Watchman, John T. Daniels (the “Buckeye Man”). The salary for both increased to \$745 annually.

February 20, 1904

Fire Destroys Chemistry Building

The Chemistry Building was destroyed by a fire, the second to happen in this building. The first was on February 12, 1889. The Board of Trustees in 1876 ordered \$125 be appropriated for the purpose of connecting the College with the city and fire department by way of telegraph.

June 18, 1889

Night Watchmen’s Clock

A Night Watchmen’s clock was purchased by President William Oxley Thompson. Property protection duties originally were assigned to custodians and maintenance men.