

Commissioner's Present:

Janet Jackson, Chair, Brooke Burns, Emily Buster, LaShaun Carter, Dr. Chenelle Jones, Dr. Vlad Kogan, Ellen Moore Griffin, Matt McCrystal, Andrea Morbitzer, Pastor Jason Ridley, Traci Shaw, Erin Synk, Oleatha Waugh, Mary Wehrle, Tiffany White

Commissioner's Absent:

Tammy Founier-Alsaada, Ellen Moore Griffin Dr. Reginald Wilkinson

Staff Present:

Denise Alex-Bouzounis, Grant Ames, Lieutenant Scott Bartholow, Denise Bauer, Officer Tracy Bowling, Officer Mike Cameron, Officer Scott Clinger, Amy DeLong, Sergeant James Fuqua, Officer Larry Geis, Sergeant Dana Hess, Officer Wilbert James, Commander Jennifer Knight, Deputy Chief Ken Kuebler, Lieutenant Jeff Lipp, Officer Jennifer Mancini, Commander Bob Meader, Officer Levon Morefield, John Oswald, Deana Overking, Kate Pishotti, Deputy Chief Thomas Quinlan, Elizabeth Reed, Tiara Ross, Doug Sarff, Commander Joseph Schrader, Officer Kelly Shay, Elon Simms, Randall Sistrunk, Sergeant Christopher Smith-Hughes, George Speaks, Director Bob Stewart, Officer Travis Tucker

WELCOME

Chair Janet Jackson welcomed the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission ("Safety Commission") to the meeting.

SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Chair Jackson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 11, 2018 Safety Commission Meeting. **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SUBCOMMITTEES

Chair Jackson updated the Safety Commission on the status of establishing the subcommittees of the Commission, noting that an outline of the specific subcommittees will be communicated prior to the August 20 meeting.

Elon Simms shared that Columbus City Council has approved the contract with Maxtrix Consulting.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN FEEDBACK

Elon Simms asked the Safety Commission to send any feedback/communications on the Diversity and Inclusion Plan by August 10, 2018.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION: CPD COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Deputy Chief (DC) Quinlan welcomed the Safety Commission and thanked them for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of Columbus Police Chief Kim Jacobs. DC Quinlan introduced DC Ken Kuebler, the acting Chief of Police. DC Quinlan shared that he and his staff will cover the 4 types of engagement the police has with the community.

DC Quinlan introduced Commander Bob Meader. Commander Meader updated the Safety Commission on the following areas:

- Citizen Police Academy
 - The Division of Police started its first Citizen Police Academy in 1993. The Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is open to Columbus residents and members of local business and civic organizations. The Citizen Police Academy provides an interactive opportunity for citizens to gain a better understanding of police functions, how policies are developed and implemented, the problem-solving and decision making process our officer's use, and what an officer experiences on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, attendees get to know a number of our outstanding Division members and experience their dedication to serving others. The academy is held one evening a week for three hours, over a 12-week period. Classes are held at various Columbus Police facilities.
- Citizen Response to Critical Incidents
 - In conjunction with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, training is provided to civilians on how to respond to an active shooter situation. 20 classes have been conducted this year, with over 700 participants. This no-cost training is for govt. and non-profit groups, commercial businesses, churches, and schools with the goal of making citizens feel safer and making facilities more secure.
- Public Safety Exploration Camps
 - Public Safety Exploration Camps began in 2014 as an initiative between the Division of Police, Division of Fire and the Department of Recreation and Parks. Each summer, these weeklong summer camps exposed youth participants to the challenges and rewards of a career in public safety. The camps, which are offered to Columbus residents, are extremely popular and successful. We now offer four-weeklong sessions to reach children ages 9-17.

DC Quinlan introduced Lieutenant Scott Bartholow. Lt. Scott Bartholow provided the Safety Commission information on:

- National Night Out

- National Night Out is a community event designed to increase citizens' awareness of police programs in the communities and identify resources available for families. The Division's command staff and Community Liaison officers attend as many events as possible during this city-wide one-day event to advise citizens on the need for crime prevention and the importance of communities watching out for crime, criminal behavior, and quality of life issues in their respective neighborhoods.
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- Heroes and Helpers
 - Each December, the Columbus Division of Police partners with the Target Corporation and the Fraternal Order of Police to provide area children with an extra special gift during the holiday season. Twenty-six deserving Columbus area children are selected and rewarded with a holiday shopping spree directly accompanied by Columbus Police officers. This program allows for outstanding interaction between the community and the Division while providing a special and lasting memory for the involved families.
- Homeless Outreach
 - Meet once a month with code enforcement, ODOT, Maryhaven, and park rangers to discuss different areas of town littered with trash and debris to coordinate clean-up efforts of homeless camps. As our officers work to assist and/or clean up homeless camps, they utilize our Community Resource Guide to educate homeless individuals about the options available to them. Our Resource Guide helps connect community members with groups that offer shelter, food, counseling, and substance abuse treatment.
- Drug Program
 - Described packages donated to the city to collect unused medication. Partners with local hospitals to participate in drug take back day.

DC Quinlan introduced Officer Kelly Shay to discuss Block Watch Programs. Officer Shay provided a Block Watch program handout to the Safety Commission as a guideline. Officer Shay shared that today, community policing allows the police and residents to work together to solve issues involving crime and social concerns in their community. Blockwatches are one of the original foundations of community policing and are referred to as the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Members look out for neighbors and their property and report suspicious activities to the police. Through community mobilization, neighbors, businesses, co-workers and students form an active partnership in the community. Blockwatches allow individuals the opportunity to discover common interests and goals that they share with their neighbors. The residents work to prevent the possibility of crime in their area and develop a sense of community spirit that encourages more activism.

DC Quinlan introduced Dr. J.S. Jindal, a member of the Diversity Recruiting Council. Dr. Jindal thanked all who just created this council and that he feels sharing the responsibility makes things easier. He shared that it is our responsibility as a so-called community leaders, to inform and educate our youngest generation. Dr. Jindal shared that if you want to know more beyond television and the news media clips, he requests to this council to attend the regular session of police -- to make practical and right solutions and recommendations.

DC Quinlan introduced Commander Jen Knight. Commander Knight shared the projects, the engagement opportunities and dialogue that our officers have on a regular basis that connect them to the community. Commander Knight noted that they want to develop a service mind set with our officers. Officers that are in the academy are required to do four hours of service to the community, and they do that service to places like the Ronald McDonald house and other places. Commander Knight noted that our officers volunteer on panels on a regular basis for open discussions and we discuss things like community policing, the impact of bias, social justice, use of force incidents and a variety of other topics and they do that through some of the universities in the area. Commander Knight shared that we also have neighborhood pride centers, which kind of act like a community fusion center to bring other city departments in, and represent those departments and they have space there and they work on some of the community issues that we have, and it brings everyone together. There is also a neighborhood pride event which is every year, and city departments kind of converge on a neighborhood and they execute various city resources in that neighborhood.

DC Quinlan introduced Officer Travis Tucker to discuss the Police Explorer Program. Officer Travis Tucker shared the Police Explorer program is a chapter of the Learning for Life organization, with a mission of introducing young men and women within the community to the field of law enforcement. The program educates and involves youth in police operations and helps these young men and women decide whether or not a career in law enforcement is for them. This program has been one of the best recruiting methods of the division.

DC Quinlan introduced Director Bob Stewart to discuss TAPS (Teen and Police Service Academy). Director Stewart shared that the TAPS Academy was created in Houston as a collaboration between the police and academies to find ways to build positive, interpersonal relationships between officers and youth 14 to 18 years old who were at risk of dropping out of school. The program was implemented in Columbus in 2014 and 2015 with the goal of fostering effective communication between youth and police officers, developing a better understanding of the police, and challenging the participants to set positive goals. The officers' participation is voluntary, and they become role models in the schools and for the participants in particular.

DC Quinlan introduced Officer Wil James to discuss the Summer Youth Basketball League. Officer James shared that during the summer when youth are not in school, police and fire personnel participate as players and coaches in a youth basketball league to spend time with youth in a friendly environment and get to know more about each other.

DC Quinlan introduced Lieutenant Jeff Lipp to discuss Safe Routes to School. Safe Routes to School is a program that was designed to increase the number of families that can and do walk safely to and from school every day.

DC Quinlan welcomed Commander Knight and Sergeant Dana Hess to discuss the Linden Safe Streets Program. The safe streets program was piloted under DC Quinlan in the Linden area in 2017, with phenomenal results. The goal was to reengage the community, reduce violent crime and address some of these epicenters of crime that we're dealing with.

Lieutenant Jeff Lipp shared details of the Bike Patrol Officers and the Campus Walking Crew. Lt. Lipp noted that there are approximately 150 bicycle trained officers who patrol in various neighborhoods throughout the city. The bicycle officers bring a soft policing approach to neighborhoods due to their accessibility to the community. Citizens enjoy being able to say hello and wave to officers in the neighborhoods as they ride by. Citizens frequently stop to talk to officers riding in their neighborhood and provide them with real-time crime information and tips. The bicycle unit has been vital in building a bridge between the Division of Police and community contacts. Bicycle officers gather intelligence from community members about crime trends in their neighborhoods and share the information with the other officers in their respective precincts. The bicycle officers are utilized for many special events because they can patrol large crowds that are not accessible by cruisers and other police vehicles. The Division puts on several Law Enforcement Bicycle Association training schools each year, which are attended by officers from all over the State of Ohio. The mobility and versatility of the Bicycle officers has proven to be invaluable to the Division.

Lt. Lipp shared the primary mission of the Campus Walking Crew is to partner with The Ohio State University and work jointly with the Ohio State University Police Division to improve safety and security in the off-campus area. Members of the Campus Walking Crew participate in meetings with Interfraternity Council, the Multi-Cultural Greek Council, Buckeye Block Watch, and members of the Undergraduate Student Government to name a few. These meetings are often focused on safety issues in the campus area, where crime trends are discussed to develop future programs to enhance safety for residents in the off-campus housing area. The Campus Walking Crew also meets with individual fraternities and sororities and attends several philanthropic events, most notably the BuckeyeThon, which is a fundraiser for Pediatric Cancer. The Campus Walking Crew works with the Office of Student Conduct and Off-Campus Student Services. These programs educate residents in the University District about responsible and safe behavior during large celebrations and street parties in the campus area. In addition to the responsibilities in the OSU off-campus area, the Campus Walking Crew officers participate in many bicycle events, such as the Silent Ride and several of the City sponsored Mayor's rides, which promote bicycle safety. The Campus Walking Crew is often deployed to the large events hosted by the City of Columbus, such as the Arnold Festival, the Pride Festival, Juneteenth, and Com Fest. This is an opportunity for the Campus Walking Crew members to be ambassadors for the City of Columbus, as these events provide the Campus Walking Crew an opportunity to interact with members of the community and visitors to the City of Columbus.

DC Quinlan introduced Officers Scott Clinger Larry Geis to discuss the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). Officer Geis shared that the CLO's are the intermediate mediation between the

police and the community. The Community Liaison Officers enthusiastically patrol their precincts, providing support and assistance to the patrol officers assigned to these areas. CLO patrolling initiatives are often through bicycle and foot patrols. The CLOs conduct presentations and demonstrations for community members, business groups, and schools on various topics and are deeply involved with National Night Out events. The liaison officers also supported patrol officers by assisting with various special events and projects, to include presidential, election, and VIP security details, Red, White and Boom, campus responses, and summer festivals. CLO initiatives on nuisance abatements of problematic properties and efforts towards hotel licensing requirements has continued. The CLOs are clearly an integral part of the success of the community policing effort of our Division, demonstrated by their energy, dedication, involvement, and achievements well beyond standard expectations.

Officer Levon Morefield discussed the Community Response Team. The Community Response Teams consist of one sergeant and ten officers. Each of the five patrol zones has their own dedicated team assigned specifically to respond to community needs. All of the officers are trained to operate on bikes, which increases their access to the public and inspires community engagement. With input from the community, these officers concentrate on crime reduction efforts where needed. Officers are assigned predominantly to second shift hours, the weekends and other high crime timeframes. Officers, under the supervision of a sergeant and direction from a bureau commander, work in plainclothes, uniform, or on bikes as the situation dictates. Officers focus on building relationships with the community to increase the likelihood that the public will provide information more openly when a crime occurs. Further, these officers engage community members by being involved in most citywide events such as Festival Latino and Jazz and Rib Festival.

Officer Jennifer Mancini shared details in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is an ongoing community collaboration involving the Division of Police and other stakeholders. At the present, there are approximately 260 active officers in the Division's team. Another 70 officers are no longer in first responder assignments, but can and do use their training in their respective assignments. Over 310 officers in the Division of Police have gone through the CIT core training course and annual training continues. The other stakeholders in CIT include:

- The Franklin County ADAMH Board, family members, consumers, advocates, and service providers who work with or have involvement with mental illness;
- The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, family members, consumers, advocates, and service providers who work with or have involvement with developmental disabilities;
- Service providers, family members, advocates, and consumers who work with or have involvement with other brain-based disorders;
- Veterans' organizations who are involved with veterans who may fit into any of the above categories;
- Specialty dockets within the Franklin County Municipal Court and the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas;
- Other law enforcement agencies who sent their officers to the county-wide core training course and who are united in a common cause; and

- Emergency departments, state psychiatric hospitals, and other health organizations that interact with persons in crisis.

Volunteer officers from all five Patrol Zones complete enhanced training to become generalist/specialist responders and are sent (more than 4600 times in 2015) to handle service calls involving persons who are in crisis or who might be in crisis due to a mental illness, a developmental disability, a brain-based disorder of another kind, or some combination of the three. The majority of these calls involve persons who have attempted suicide or persons who are contemplating suicide. Officers obtain knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes during their training that help them learn better ways of interacting with persons in crisis and then get to practice what they learned through experience with service calls. The primary goal is to enhance safety for the community and for the officers and then get a person in crisis to a place of safety and care. Officers also learn about the various systems, how to interact with those systems, and how to collaboratively solve problems when called to interact with a person who is in crisis. They have access to resource lists and other documentation that allows them to direct persons in need to the best available location for their needs. CIT is true community policing in that the community is actively involved with the training course received by officers and in the outcomes. The community provides guidance and resources to the program to ensure its success and all strive to make things better for these special populations.

Sergeant James Fuqua presented details on the Diversity Inclusion Liaisons. To support its ongoing commitment to maintain open and accessible relationships with all members of the community, the Columbus Division of Police has identified three of its officers who will have direct access to the Chief's Office to serve as the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Liaison for the African-American; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender; and New American and Arabic-speaking community members. The Liaisons will assist the Chief in addressing any ongoing concerns that may be interfering with a positive relationship between the Division and the City of Columbus' many and varied communities, which may be defined by ethnicity, culture, language, sexual orientation, or other types of diverse interests. The role of the Liaisons includes:

- Creating and maintaining meaningful dialogues and relationships to address areas of need or concern
- Identifying, analyzing, and addressing problems arising between the Division and the community
- Helping to eliminate barriers and dispel myths that may exist between the police and the community
- Educating the community about the many outreach and engagement opportunities the Division offers to all citizens so they can learn more about police operations and policies

DC Quinlan shared details on the Joint Police Patrol between the City of Columbus and the Ohio State University . The Joint Police Patrol is collaboration between the Division of Police and The Ohio State University. A CPD officer is partnered with an OSU officer and, as part of their duties, they interact with and educate OSU students and staff and others living in the immediate off-campus areas. This joint patrol provides safety education and attends meetings at venues both on and off campus in an effort to prevent crime, help students learn about responsible behavior,

work with residents and landlords to enhance safety, and get students to become more safety conscious.

Officer Mike Cameron detailed the Mounted Unit. The Mounted Unit was established in 1984 and currently consists of five officers, one sergeant and nine horses. The Mounted Unit is one of the Division's best public relations tools in community policing. A mounted officer, a tower of police visibility standing 8-10 feet tall, creates the best overall crime deterrence for any city event. The Mounted Unit is used by the Division for many different functions and is deployed for parades, all home OSU football games, and in the campus area during some away football games. Additionally, the unit is used for crowd control and security during Red White and Boom, Latino Festival, Asian Festival, and other large festivals in and around the downtown area. The Mounted Unit is the best non-aggressive means to move people. The Mounted Unit assists in searching for missing persons, especially in areas that are not accessible to vehicle and foot traffic. The unit has proven to be a deterrent to gang problems in our community by being highly visible and patrolling areas in the vicinity of schools known to have gang-related problems. The unit works with patrol officers and has been an effective tool in the reduction of crime in neighborhoods. The Mounted Unit is used for National Night Out and attends several other block watch events throughout the year. The Mounted Unit conducts training once a month with other local mounted units, Franklin County Sherriff, Delaware County, Licking County, OSU, New Albany and Athens, Ohio and is used for crowd control training with police recruits at the Academy.

Officer Tracy Bowling discussed the Columbus Police Annual Report and copies of the 2016 report was provided to the Safety Commission. The annual report is a chance for the division to show the public all of our activities and statistics for the previous year.

Denise Alex-Bouzounis shared the division's social media programs. The Division began actively managing and interacting with its Twitter and Facebook pages in late 2013. Since that time, our social media followers have grown by about 400% and have become a go-to source of information for our public and local media. The Division shares positive Division updates, crime prevention tips, human interest stories, traffic and crime alerts, adverse Division updates in the interests of transparency and other information via these channels. Often, the Division responds directly to questions, comments or concerns expressed to us via our social media pages. Social media postings have generated thousands of responses, comments and shares – giving our community a voice about Division stories. Nextdoor is a free private social network for neighborhood groups that is now monitored by our Community Liaison officers to assist with law enforcement related questions and concerns.

Chair Jackson opened the meeting to questions and answers. Mr. Waugh inquired about the TAPS program and asked what type of follow up is done with these young people, once they complete the taps program, and then what types of relationships are developed out of those. Officer Fuqua responded that we're still working on the technical parts of the follow up. Ms. Burns inquired if there was any eligibility rules and/or fees for the Police Explorer's program. It was explained that there are fees, rules and regulations.

Ms. Burns inquired if the fee was prohibitive to those interested in the program and DC Quinlan shared that they do fundraising to help offset the fees. Pastor Ridley referenced the Columbus

Police 2016 Annual report and questioned the lack of diversity in the division command staff. DC Quinlan responded that they are trying to develop diversity in the ranks by mentoring to promote and increase diversity. Pastor Ridley asked what the police officers present want to get out of the Safety Commission and several officers provided their thoughts and perspective on the Safety Commission. Ms. Wehrle inquired about the services being offered to people living on the land. DC Quinlan responded we have created a lot of partnerships with the social services and community services and what we find in many cases is we'll reach out and provide services, but they're rejected or decline because some people have chosen that this is where they want to be, how they want to live and they do not want our assistance. Others maybe suffer from mental health or something, and maybe need help, but don't know how to ask for it. DC Quinlan noted there's always opportunity to find additional funding and additional programs that can maybe take a different approach. Ms. Morbitzer noted that it's really promising to hear that more officers are being trained for behavioral health and mental health services and addressing that population. Ms. Morbitzer inquired if there are collaborative efforts with the local hospitals to understand how that population is really taxing the hospitals and emergency departments. Officer Mancini responded and discussed how CPD utilizes the various hospitals. Mr. McCrystal inquired why every officer isn't CIT trained. Officer Mancini noted that it's currently offered on a volunteer basis, however, every new recruit is CIT trained, and the goal is for all officers to be CIT trained.

Chair Jackson informed the Safety Commission that they will receive an email from Elon Simms with four questions about today's topics and asked for a response in the next two days. Chair Jackson noted that the August 20, 2018 Safety Commission meeting has been moved to a location downtown and the start time is now 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.