



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO

ELAINE BRYANT • CHIEF OF POLICE

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COLUMBUS POLICE LAUNCH SAFE PARKS INITIATIVE

Today Columbus Police Chief Elaine Bryant announced the creation of a Columbus Police Parks Detail. Launching today, the Safe Parks Initiative is composed of approximately 30 officers. Their focus will be patrolling and securing the city's parks and recreation centers.

“After the long shutdown of COVID, our families want to get out and enjoy our parks and recreation centers,” said Chief Bryant. “Our priority is making sure they do that without worry of the violence we’ve seen already this summer. It breaks my heart that we’ve lost young people in places where they should be free of worry and violence. This is not acceptable in our city.”

Zone Crime Analysts evaluated available crime data for the preceding six months for locations in and around area parks and community centers and identified locations in need of additional patrols. These deployments will be evaluated on a weekly basis and adjusted as necessary.

Assigned officers will be deployed on bikes into parks to provide high visibility to prevent crimes and also focus on engaging the youth and community to improve relations. Officers may use enforcement strategies to address crime and acts of violence that threaten the safety and well-being of area residents.

All of the officers in the Parks Detail are members of the Community Response Team, whose responsibilities include engaging with the community to address quality of life issues, aligning fully with the duties of the Parks Detail. No officers are being pulled from patrol.

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