



## MEETING MINUTES

### Chief's Advisory Committee Thursday, April 18, 2024

The Thursday, April 18, 2024 meeting of the Chief's Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Committee Members Present: W. Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Emmet Apolinario, Rama Billakanty, Gaurav Goel, Susan Ortega, Alex O'Ryan, Zhen Xing. Kimberly Hollie (Vice Chair) arrived at 5:53 p.m.

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief Tabernik, Rebecca Myers, Shannon Black-Dotson

Also Present: Ashley Swiger, First Responder Program Coordinator, Syntero and Nancy Waina, One Dublin

#### Welcome

Chief Páez welcomed the committee and introduced Jayme Maxwell from the Clerk of Council's Office.

Chair Maynard thanked everyone for attending and began by sharing his thoughts on global events. He stated that he hopes that the work this committee continues to do will enhance community police relations in the Dublin community and around the area.

#### Committee Business

##### Review/Amend/Adopt Last Meeting's Minutes

Chair Maynard noted a question on Page 4 of the minutes. The response to a question about cross-jurisdictional pursuit was unclear. Chief Páez explained the procedure referred to in that section of the minutes. There is policy that outlines the parameters of pursuit. Whether the pursuit would continue by Dublin Police Division would be dependent upon the new agency's policy as well as Dublin's policy.

Mr. O'Ryan moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 Chief's Advisory Committee meeting as amended. Mr. Goel seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Chair Maynard, yes; Mr. Apolinario, yes; Mr. Goel, yes; Mr. O'Ryan, yes; Ms. Billakanty, yes; Ms. Ortega, yes; Ms. Xing, yes.

Motion carried 7-0

## **Old Business**

Ms. Myers advised that staff had no old business.

Chair Maynard noted that member terms are nearing an end and asked current members for their reflections regarding what may be important for new members to know as they come on board.

Ms. Ortega stated that an informal onboarding for new members would be helpful and would allow the Committee not to lose momentum. She suggested ideas of sharing old agendas and meeting with the chair/past chair. Chair Maynard agreed and stated that he and Vice Chair Hollie would remain available to meet with new members.

## **Public Comment**

Nancy Waina, Member of One Dublin's DEI Committee stated that she tries to attend CIAC and CAC because collaboration between the groups is important as they share a similar mission.

## **New Business**

### Public Safety Service Liaison Update

Deputy Chief Tabernik introduced Ashley Swiger and Shannon Black-Dotson, Syntero. He provided an update on the Public Safety Service Liaison, a joint partnership between the City of Dublin Police Department and Syntero. He thanked City Council, the City Manager and Ms. Ortega for their vision and help bringing this to fruition. One of the goals of the Police Department is to address community concerns including mental health support. This partnership is another example of the enhanced service provided by the City of Dublin and Syntero. Since 2020, the Dublin Police Department has responded to over 1,000 individuals in crisis.

Deputy Chief Tabernik explained that Ms. Black-Dotson has been with the City of Dublin since November 2023 as the Public Safety Service Liaison. She has received significant buy-in from staff in her time in this role. She has created a resource guide that is helpful for officers.

Ms. Swiger provided an overview of the program and position. She explained that the Syntero Public Safety Services Liaison is a Syntero employee who works in tandem with the Police Department to connect individuals to appropriate services and resources. The program enhances the ability of the Dublin Police Department to connect individuals they have contact with during a request for emergency services.

Ms. Black-Dotson noted that community connections across central Ohio have been integral in getting help to community members in need.

Ms. Swiger shared that since Ms. Black-Dotson began officially taking referrals in December 2023, 39 community members have been successfully engaged in services. There have been 51 total referrals. That shows that the officers are engaged in the program and finding value in it.

Ms. Black-Dotson shared the success of connections made with VMet, the Veterans Mobile Crisis Team. Youth mental health services is another partnership that was built with Nationwide Children's mobile response stabilization services. With regard to homelessness in Dublin, there have been a couple of situations where individuals were able to connect with a local charity in Dublin, Dublin Neighborhood Bridges. They have been a huge support.

Deputy Chief Tabernik thanked Ms. Black-Dotson for her work. He applauded the effort she puts into helping officers fulfill their roles of serving the community.

Mr. Goel asked how people reach out for help. Ms. Black-Dotson stated that it is not specifically through law enforcement. She has received referrals through the community or personal connections.

Mr. Apolinario asked if any religious groups are able to help with homelessness. Ms. Black-Dotson stated that many of the religious groups are overwhelmed and there have been some safety concerns with shelters. She has not had success stories with them at this time.

Ms. Xing asked if Ms. Black-Dotson has a database of organizations that serve the Asian community. She offered to share names of organizations of which the Asian community may not be aware. Ms. Black-Dotson stated that she is building her database from scratch. It started out with areas of need like grief, homelessness, substance abuse, etc. She would appreciate any specific resources.

Chair Maynard thanked Ms. Black-Dotson for her work. He thanked Ms. Ortega for her role in bringing this program to fruition. This concept went from discussion to implementation. He asked if there are other public safety liaison programs in Central Ohio. Ms. Black-Dotson answered affirmatively and noted that many are called by other titles. Dublin is unique because the City's jurisdiction is in three counties. Since January, they have built a network of similar positions to share knowledge, resources, and to advocate for the concept.

Ms. Ortega stated that she is thrilled that this began with discussion from this committee and came to fruition. She recognized Ms. Swiger for her role and expertise. She expressed gratitude for the Dublin Police Department. This resource helps reduce moral injury to officers as well as those in crisis. Ms. Black-Dotson added that the Dublin Police Department officers have been very welcoming to and inclusive of her. She continues to build relationships with officers.

Deputy Chief Tabernik shared next steps for the program. He continues to meet every other month with Ms. Swiger to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. Enhanced training for officers with Ms. Black-Dotson is planned.

#### Dublin Reunification Pilot Program Update

Deputy Chief Tabernik provided an update on Reunify Dublin. This program is in keeping with the goal of providing additional resources to vulnerable community members. He credited Ms. Myers with suggesting the name Reunify Dublin. This program was introduced in November/December to this group. In support of feedback received at that time encouraging staff to ensure cultural competency, staff engaged with a parent advocate and is working to provide forms in multiple languages.

Deputy Chief Tabernik stated that the Police Division has attended many calls involving missing children and their caretakers/guardians were not aware they are missing. He provided an example of a missing nonverbal child that police officers were able to help. The thought is to build what would be a resource housed at the police department where staff can proactively engage with community members and have residents share information on a voluntary basis to help identify vulnerable members of the community. This information would be searchable by police sergeants. The plan to roll this out would be to contact families who have had this happen. Examples of vulnerable community members could be people with cognitive/developmental disabilities,

cultural/language barriers, or memory loss. He reiterated that this would be a completely voluntary program. The program is not a registry. It is a reunification program, not a solution allowing officers know everything about an individual before going into a situation. Operationally, there would be a form in a secure area. Staff intends to engage with IT on the most secure platform.

Mr. Apolinario asked about HIPAA compliance. Deputy Chief Tabernik stated that staff did engage with the legal department to ensure this information would not be subject to public records law. Mr. Goel thanked staff for following up.

Ms. Ortega stated that making it really easy is a good idea. HIPAA compliant GSuites through Google could be an accessible option. She suggested this be something that could be available at festivals within Dublin by possibly sharing a QR code. She asked if a minor could opt out once emancipated. Deputy Chief Tabernik explained that the initial approach would be to engage with community members with whom the Police Division has had interactions. The second approach would be to engage with counselors at schools with SROs who think students might be able to be served. The program will begin by being targeted and if successful, could become more public. Ms. Myers added that this would not begin with a simple form online, but a conversation with an officer to help guide someone through the process.

Vice Chair Hollie asked what kind of information is being gathered. Deputy Chief Tabernik stated that all parts are voluntary but staff would ask for name, address, phone number, disability, physical descriptors, photo, and as many contact numbers as they would like to provide. The goal is to get someone reunited to their family and in a safe place.

Ms. Xing asked for the size of population targeted. Deputy Chief Tabernik stated that they have dozens for the initial rollout.

Ms. Wiana stated that the Fire Department has a similar program. Deputy Chief Tabernik stated that they have had those conversations with the Fire Department. Their program is more location based. Ms. Waina asked if the Police Division has experience with providing sign language if necessary. Deputy Chief Tabernik that the City has recently introduced a program for interpretation using iPads at all City offices. Ms. Myers confirmed that the program has been deployed at all City front desks as a pilot.

Ms. Billakanty asked if this type of program is used elsewhere. Deputy Chief Tabernik answered affirmatively and stated that currently there is no way to connect those. Reunify Dublin would be for Dublin residents or students that go to Dublin City Schools.

Chair Maynard asked if Reunify Dublin was the name. Deputy Chief Tabernik answered affirmatively explaining that staff felt it captures the intent. It will not be called a registry. Chair Maynard suggested other terminology rather than register. Ms. Myers stated that registering for the program is acceptable, Dublin does not want a standalone list with the historical connotations from WWII.

## **Chief's Update**

### Spring Neighborhood Leadership Meeting Presentation

Chief Páez stated that the spring Homeowners Association (HOA) meeting was held Monday, April 15, 2024 at the Council Chamber building. The 2024 Police Department goals were shared at that event, which include:

- Critical incident response and preparedness
- Theft offense reduction throughout the City
- Overall traffic safety improvements
- Effectively address issues of significant community concern.

Chief Páez provided an update on speed management. He noted that staff has brought materials from the Slow Down Dublin campaign to share with the Committee. He shared statistics on the speed management program including 2,617 traffic stops and 717 speeding citations in the first three months of the year. Staff does not work traffic enforcement to be punitive or as a revenue generator, it is intended to change driver behavior. Chief Páez named the traffic enforcement officers in the Community Impact Unit:

- Sergeant Dave Gatterdam
- Officer Deron Steinke
- Officer Nick Moreland
- Officer Joe Popson
- Lieutenant Alex Carlson
- Officer Matt Williams

### Recent Trends and Police Activity Overview

Chief Páez shared trends in crimes in Dublin. Year to date, Dublin Police Officers have seen a decrease in Part I serious offenses, overall theft, theft from vehicles, and burglary and breaking and entering offenses. They have seen an increase in theft of vehicles (increase of 1). These are in comparison to numbers from the previous year.

Chief Páez stated that staff created a Powerpoint for officers to be able to travel to HOAs and present to them. The moniker for this program is Resilient Neighborhoods. It is a fundamental opportunity for officers who work in the neighborhood to meet those residents so they may know who will be responding to a call.

Chief Páez shared two critical incidents and shared that conversations continue allowing the opportunity to discuss and learn from incidents.

Chief Páez shared the State of Ohio Standards for Law Enforcement accreditation. Dublin was one of ten agencies selected to pilot that program. He thanked the Committee for support in that accreditation process.

Chair Maynard commended the Police Division for their intentionality toward disseminating information.

Mr. Goel asked about the theft problems with Kias and Hyandais. Chief stated that it is hard to say. From a national perspective, overall theft of vehicles is trending downward. In the month of March, Dublin had zero theft of vehicles over the entire month.

Chief Paez stated that he will share the policy for pursuit and forcible stopping techniques with the Committee.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

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Chair

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