



## MEETING MINUTES

### Chief's Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 20, 2024

The Thursday, June 20, 2024, Chief's Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. in the Development Large Conference Room, 5200 Emerald Parkway.

#### Welcome

Chief Páez welcomed the Committee.

Chair Maynard welcomed those present and shared his thoughts along the theme of thinking globally, being aware nationally, and focusing locally. He offered a special welcome to new committee members and welcomed Mitch Ament as Staff Liaison.

Committee Members Present: W. Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Kimberly Hollie (Vice Chair), Emmet Apolinario, Gaurav Goel, Susan Ortega, Ron Barnes

Committee Members Absent: Alex O'Ryan, Pat Foley, Lisa Baer, Zhen Xing

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief Lattanzi, Lt. Stoll, Officer Cochrun, Officer Patrick

#### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Maynard asked for amendments or corrections to the May 16, 2024 minutes of the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Ortega stated that she was not in attendance at the meeting though the minutes erroneously indicate that she was present and that she voted. Chair Maynard noted a verb tense error in the discussion regarding the onboarding of new members.

Mr. Apolinario moved and Mr. Goel seconded approval of the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

The motion passed by the following vote: Mr. Apolinario, yes; Mr. Goel, yes; Chair Maynard, yes; Ms. Ortega, yes; Vice Chair Hollie, yes; Mr. Barnes, yes.

#### Public Comments

There were no public comments or old business.

#### New Business

- **New Member Introduction**

Chief Páez stated that this will be a continuing introduction as two of the new members are not in attendance this evening. He invited Mr. Barnes to introduce himself.

Mr. Barnes stated that he is honored to be a part of this body. Service on the Chief's Advisory Committee first came to interest when he went through the Citizens' Police Academy. He enjoyed learning about the police department and its strategic approach to community engagement. He and his wife moved to Dublin in 1998, he served as CEO of COTA. They left Dublin in 2004 and after living in Miami, Phoenix, and Austin they moved back to Dublin at the end of 2020. He is looking forward to getting involved in the community.

Chief Páez welcomed Mr. Barnes and shared that many members of this Committee have come through the Citizens' Police Academy. New members Lisa Baer and Pat (Charles) Foley will be attending in the future. He stated that he met with all three members on June 10, 2024, and reviewed the Committee's founding resolution and rules of order, as well as the Police Department's mission, goals, core values, and organizational structure.

Chair Maynard suggested referring to the committee members as "Community Partners" or "CPs." He asked that the minutes reflect this change moving forward.

CP Maynard invited the other community partners to introduce themselves and share about their time with the Committee.

CP Ortega stated that she has been with the Chief's Advisory Committee since 2020. She has worked with Syntero Behavioral Health Community Center since 2013 serving anyone who lives, works, or plays in the Dublin community. They have had many opportunities to work with the Dublin Police Department and want to serve them as they serve us. CP Maynard stated that CP Ortega has been integral in bringing the Public Safety Services Liaison to the City. CP Ortega explained that the program was established to help bridge the gap between the community and services. It officially began in late 2023. She has felt fortunate to partner with the court team, work with the wellness committee, and even partner with Deputy Chief Lattanzi on a town hall event addressing suicide awareness.

CP Hollie stated that she is the Committee's newest member, joining last year. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with the Police Department and the different initiatives. She still feels she has much to learn but she is honored to serve on this committee.

CP Goel stated that he works and lives in Dublin and wanted to get involved. This is his third year on this committee. He is learning something new every meeting. Dublin putting this much effort into community involvement/engagement is special. He had the opportunity to be part of police officer interview panels. Something notable that the Dublin Police Division does is community member involvement in the hiring process of new officers. It is a great experience for candidates as well as the panel. Candidates were amazed. It showed him that candidates also want community engagement. CP Maynard added that CP Hollie had also participated in the interview process.

CP Apolinario stated that he is serving a second term. It has been a pleasure working with the Chief and staff and learning more about the Dublin Police Department. He is a Washington

Township Fire Academy graduate and has been a part of the Dublin AM Rotary since 2003. He expressed his appreciation for Dublin and how well we form the management and leadership in law enforcement.

CP Maynard stated that he has been with the Chief's Advisory Committee since its inception. The Committee was formed during a very tense period in the country. It has been a great experience with the Chief and Deputy Chiefs and the department having meaningful conversations about what the community might need, what it expects, and how we can move the department to best police practices. The impacts go beyond the City to the region. CP Maynard shared that he is committed to the DEI Framework passage, "While inclusion has long been one of our guiding principles as a City, we now need it to be our driving force. Join us in fostering a future that is both exceptionally open and unapologetically diverse, where all feel welcome and valued." That statement was included in 2021 and he continues to promote and support that vision for the City and Police Department.

Chief Páez thanked the Community Partners for those wonderful introductions. He shared his appreciation for the conversations that start with the Committee and move projects forward from thought and conversation. He looks forward to sharing this with the next generation of officers.

- **July 18 Chair and Vice-Chair Election**

Chief Páez stated that he would like to put the election of the Chair and Vice Chair on the agenda for the July meeting. CP Maynard stated that this is consistent with the resolution. He suggested members give this consideration for discussion. Chief Páez encouraged any discussion now or at the meeting in July. CP Maynard stated that members could mull over whether they have an interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair and share that at the next meeting.

## **Chief's Update**

- **School Resource Office (SRO) Program Overview**

Chief Páez introduced the School Resource Office (SRO) Program topic and stated that one of the first conversations with this Committee was regarding the School Resource Officer Program.

Lieutenant Stoll, Officer Cochrun, and Officer Patrick provided a presentation overview of the Community Education Unit. The organizational structure of the unit includes Lieutenant Jake Stoll and seven School Resource Officers consisting of three high school SROs and four middle school SROs. The SROs assigned to middle schools are also responsible for their feeder elementary schools. They also teach classes at different schools. He shared the SRO assignments as follows:

- Officer Paul Burks - Jerome High School;
- Officer Eric Cochrun - Coffman High School;
- Officer Scott Brown – Scioto High School,
- Officer Rigo Quintanilla - Simpson Davis Middle School and Chapman, Olde Sawmill, Riverside, and Wright elementary schools;
- Officer Chad Patrick – Grizzell Middle School and Bailey, Deer Run, Eli Penney, and Glacier Ridge elementary schools;

- Officer Scott Nichelson - Indian Run and Thomas elementary schools and Emerald Campus.

*Background of the SRO program.*

It was developed in the late 1950s and is focused on relationship building between police and youth. SROs serve as teachers, counselors, and law enforcement. They take action on law-related issues. They can be a resource for many areas: violence discussion, alcohol and drug use prevention, safety, and crime prevention. They are problem solvers and resources for teachers. Lt. Stoll shared an example of the SROs acting as resources for teachers. They assisted a transfer student from Japan with obtaining her transcripts. There are national and state governing bodies for SROs. Staff attends regional meetings to learn about best practices in the field. The history of the Dublin program began after the death of a Scioto High School student at an underage party in 1996. Dublin City Schools and Dublin Police stationed an officer on high school campuses. In 1998, the SRO program officially began in high schools. In 2001, it expanded to middle schools; and in 2004, it expanded to the new Jerome High School.

*Additional responsibilities and duties of School Resource Officers.*

They are members of the school threat assessment team, members of which are all trained using the United States Special Services threat assessment model. The assessment team diagnoses a threat to determine whether action is necessary. SROs advise on safety drills, teach ALICE (active shooter training), and assist victims of crime in reporting. They follow up on referrals from Children's Services and assist guidance departments with students with suicidal thoughts. Each school has a robust guidance department. The high schools have drug and alcohol counselors on site. SROs work with the Children's Hospital Intervention Crisis Team. They review daily calls for service. He added that most patrol units would email an SRO if they have an issue with a student. That information can then be passed on to the guidance counselor. SROs coordinate safety plans for events like sporting events and dances. They are required by law to do safety drills. They do fire/tornado drills. They meet with various clubs, student organizations, and PTOs. They also meet and assist students with projects.

*Presentations and Programs of the SROs.*

Elementary:	Reading Programs, Q&A, Familiarizing Students with Police
Middle School:	Dublin Drug Abuse Prevention Program, Bullying Prevention, Policing and Science
High School:	Mental Wellness, Distracted Driving, Personal Safety, Law, Psychology, Drone Technology, Forensic Science, Drug Abuse Prevention, Civics
Community:	Drug Take Back, Self-defense, Special Olympics, ALICE Training, Boy/Girl Scout Troop Partnership, Beyond Driver's Ed

CP Ortega asked how it works with schools that are outside of the City of Dublin's jurisdiction. Officer Cochrun stated that Officer Quintanilla is stationed at Davis Middle School, which is outside Dublin's jurisdiction. He is a liaison and has good relationships with Columbus Police. Three schools are staffed with Union County Deputies and they operate separately. If something terrible happens in a school, not in our City, Dublin will respond to that. Dublin would not be in charge of the entire investigation but could be the first responders there to help.

CP Maynard asked if the school threat assessment teams were by building or district-wide. Officer Cochrun answered that both exist. Every school has an independent threat assessment team.

Once the collective investigation is done, there is a centralized reporting system in the school. Investigations are often not done entirely by the Police because they are bound by constitutional regulations that the school district is not. Officer Patrick stated that they work so closely with school administrators that they are typically involved.

CP Maynard asked about tabletop exercises. Officer Cochrun stated that once a year a large-scale active threat training for the school district is held.

CP Goel asked about predicted additions to the Community Education Unit. Chief Páez stated the SRO contract is reviewed and voted on annually and expansions are part of that. The school has some resources available that are not specifically school resource officers. Lt. Stoll explained that there is a shared cost for the SRO program. In order to ensure maximum flexibility, the contract is for one year. That also ensures that programs are funded responsibly. Lt. Stoll shared that additional safety officers (not school resource officers) were added to the elementary schools two years ago. They are not armed or in uniform. That program is funded 100% by the school district. They work closely with Dublin Police Department and retired Dublin officers are often hired, which allows for great interoperability. CP Ortega asked for more information. Officer Patrick stated that much of his attention goes to his assigned middle school. The school safety officers have been a great addition because they can respond immediately. Their knowledge allows them to answer questions and serve as resources if they cannot get their SRO. He has a good relationship with these coordinators. CP Ortega stated that the SROs are spread thin so it is nice to have the additional presence. Lt. Stoll added that there is no territorialism. It provides continuity throughout a student's academic career.

CP Maynard asked if this falls under the purview of Deputy Chief Lattanzi or Deputy Chief Tabernik. Lt. Stoll stated that the City is in the process of adding a deputy chief; it is likely that this unit will fall under that Deputy Chief. CP Maynard asked what the position is called within the school district that is responsible for public safety. Chief Páez stated that is the Coordinator of Safety and Security. CP Maynard inquired who that position speaks to in the Dublin Police Department. Lt. Stoll stated that based on the hierarchy of agencies, the Coordinator of Safety and Security speaks directly to Lt. Stoll. They have a 26-year relationship and are corresponding several times per week.

CP Barnes asked what the SRO contract outlines. Lt. Stoll stated that it is a contract of services so it changes slightly from year to year. The officers' pay is contractually negotiated. The contract is drawn up as a department, forwarded to the School District, and formally voted on by City Council and the School Board (the governing bodies of the two entities). Chief Páez added that on July 1, City Council would vote on whether to authorize the City Manager to enter into the agreement. Dublin School Board has already approved this year's contract.

CP Maynard asked about safety plans for school events like sporting events. Lt. Stoll stated that partnership is built over many years. Officer Cochrun stated that recurring events have a set operations and security event plan. For example, a Dublin Coffman football game will have police and private security as well as school administration in attendance. If there is a large event like Coffman versus Jerome, middle school SROs will also work that and deal with that section of kids. In the planning phase, high school SROs sit in on administrative meetings. If anything of note comes up, SROs can advise the school administration and come up with appropriate plans. It is

the school's responsibility to ask for additional security. Typically, there are four officers at a home football game and six private security personnel. Plans exist for lighting, rain delay, etc. The Police Department is very good about operations much like with City events. Lt. Stoll stated that this is a decentralized unit. SROs are empowered to make decisions. They are in tune with the school and any issues they are having, so they are empowered to make safety decisions. Decisions are made fluidly as events can be fast developing. CP Barnes stated that a concern would be that the City could be blamed for not having adequate staff at a game for example. Lt. Stoll stated that there is flexibility to pivot quickly to adequately staff a game. Officer Cochrun stated that the relationship built with the school is the foundation. His school (Coffman) sees him as the expert on safety and security. CP Barnes stated that SROs are the experts not just in security but the safety of these kids. Officer Cochrun stated that the common goal and number one priority is the safety and security of students and staff that go to Dublin City Schools. Lt. Stoll stated that the Police Department is constantly working to make officers more efficient and effective. He shared a resource created called Dublin Schools Emergency Resource. It is a website that can be shared with other emergency responders that gives 3D tours of the interior and exterior of every school. The schools originally asked for something like this. The fire department has used this resource. CP Apolinario asked if it is cloud-based. Officer Cochrun stated it is and can be shared but is not online.

CP Barnes stated how lucky Dublin is and that he hopes this program can be shared because many other districts could benefit from Dublin's example. Officer Patrick thanked the Committee and stated that SROs make an effort to establish relationships and will continue building relationships with the students, staff, and community.

CP Ortega asked if there are opportunities over the summer to stay connected with families that have used your support. Officer Patrick stated that they stay in touch with school administrators. The social worker in the school keeps them up to date on any students who need assistance. Patrol helps him drive around neighborhoods where the kids are. Sports practices are ongoing. Officer Cochrun stated that summer provides some time to walk around with no kids in the building and look for opportunities for improvement. Lt. Stoll stated that the Department is always looking at how to utilize SROs during the summer. They help out with different things. The process for hiring dispatchers requires an intensive background check and Officer Cochrun can do that in his office in the school to maintain that connection. They are already planning for fall throughout the summer. Officer Cochrun stated that they will host training within the school. Schools present tactical challenges for emergency responders. They work with SWAT teams and fire departments.

CP Maynard stated that there had been a community member who was coming to the Chief's Advisory Committee meetings and she raised issues about how first responders dealt with kids with special needs. That was something raised for the Department to consider. He asked if there had been any follow-up on that issue. Officer Cochrun stated that every SRO has a special relationship with the kids in the Special Learning Centers. Before certain drills at the schools, those teachers are given advance warning. SROs will speak with those teachers about room- and

child-specific options, as standard protocols may not work. CP Maynard suggested that consideration be given to special needs students in a strategic plan.

Chief Páez thanked Lt. Stoll and Officers Cochrun and Patrick. Dublin has some of the finest police officers around. They are great examples and wonderful people committed to taking care of our community.

- **Activities and trends**

Chief Páez updated the Committee on public safety activities and trends. Crime is trending downward almost across the board. All areas are trending down from this time last year. He thanked the Committee for sharing preventative information. The only upward trend is in traffic crashes. Traffic patterns have resumed and returned to normal. Traffic enforcement activity is well above where we were for the last couple of years. He stated that traffic enforcement in the City of Dublin is not revenue-generating or punitive; it is focused on changing behavior.

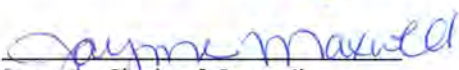
- **June 28 Brown-Harris Cemetery Dedication Ceremony**

Chief Páez shared that the dedication will begin at 11:00 a.m. at 6540 Shier Rings Road. This ceremony comes after years of historic restoration. A monument has been created that properly illustrates the space's importance in our community.

Chief Páez stated that the State Accreditation process will be presented at the Committee's upcoming meeting in July.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

  
Chair, Chief's Advisory Committee

  
Deputy Clerk of Council

Dublin Police Department - Contact Information  
614-410-4800

Chief Justin Páez  
[jpaez@dublin.oh.us](mailto:jpaez@dublin.oh.us)

DC Nick Tabernik  
[ntabernik@dublin.oh.us](mailto:ntabernik@dublin.oh.us)