



## MEETING MINUTES

### Chief's Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 21, 2024

The Thursday, November 21, 2024, Chief's Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. in the Development Building, Large Conference Room, 5200 Emerald Parkway.

Committee Members Present: Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Kimberly Hollie (Vice Chair), Emmet Apolinario, Lisa Baer, Ron Barnes, Pat Foley, Gaurav Goel, Alex O'Ryan, Zhen Xing, Susan Ortega

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief Tabernik, Mitch Ament, Rebecca Myers

Others Present: Kathy Harter, Planning and Zoning Commission Member

Ms. Maxwell explained that changes to the agenda were made to reflect the newly adopted Rules and Regulations. Chair Maynard expressed a desire to retain the Chief's Welcome on the agenda.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Maynard asked for amendments or corrections to the October 17, 2024 minutes of the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting.

Community Partner (CP) Baer noted changes in salutations from Mr. and Ms. to CP.

Chair Maynard shared the following amendments:

Page 3 of 7 – Change "gathering" to "session"

Page 4 of 7 – In the third paragraph second line, add "the last".

CP Barnes moved and Vice Chair Hollie seconded approval of the October 17, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

The motion passed by the following vote: CP Apolinario, yes; CP Xing, yes; CP Goel, yes; CP O'Ryan, yes; Chair Maynard, yes; CP Baer, yes; CP Ortega, yes; CP Foley, yes; Vice Chair Hollie, yes; CP Barnes, yes.

#### **New Business**

##### *Business District Unit*

Deputy Chief Lattanzi provided an update regarding the newly developed Business District Unit. The Unit will start mid-January to help with unique areas, specifically the Business District. As the western portion of the City and the Frantz Road corridor develops, this unit will likely expand and take care of challenges that can occur within these areas of the City. This provides an opportunity to better connect with community members in these areas and help them identify and strategically think through problems unique to their area. The Business District Unit will be led by Sergeant Josh Kirby and include Officer Jared Dobney and Officer Josh Weber. The Unit will fall within the

Community Impact Unit and have responsibility for connecting and proactively engaging with residents within the Business District through personal contact, contact with Homeowners Associations, meeting with business owners, and talking to developers to discover what issues they are specifically facing and how to proactively come up with solutions. The focus is on crime prevention, proactive traffic enforcement, problem solving, preparing for critical incidents and event safety management planning. The Police Department has learned of some regular issues faced by residents in those areas such as traffic, noise, reckless operation and activity within parking garages. Those officers will work a slightly different schedule than patrol officers. They will begin with four 10-hour shifts. The goal is to have them in the area at the time when the most pedestrians are present and call volumes are higher. For areas such as Bridge Park, when those businesses have a large number of patrons, we want those officers to be out, visible and engaging with the public to address criminal activity, deter activity and engage with the public to ensure they feel safe when in those areas. Those are areas of the City that draw more pedestrian traffic. Staff is excited about this unit starting. Sgt. Kirby and his team are hitting the ground running to think about how to message publicly. They are working with Rebecca Myers to put information on the website. They intend to have a stakeholder meeting with businesses and residents to hear from the Bridge Park community. Part of that unit is for the Police Department to leverage the use of technology to help resolve crime and provide a safe environment.

Chief Páez stated that staff spoke about this at the end of last year (2023) moving into budget recommendations. Part of what was allocated for this year's budget was two additional police officer positions to help the team come to fruition. Part of the reason it is just now arriving is as officers are leaving the organization and backfilling those roles takes time. It is a lengthy process. There has been good work done by those on the recruiting team and members of this committee who have helped in that capacity. The Police Department is near fully staffed. Creating this unit will involve folding in technologies that currently exist and some that will be moving forward in the next several months.

CP Baer asked about the specific area covered by this unit. DC Lattanzi stated that the area surrounding Bridge Park has been coined one business district. This unit would not strictly be responsible for Historic Dublin and Bridge Park. The redevelopment of the Frantz Road corridor, the SportsOhio complex and the West Innovation District could provide opportunities for the Business District Unit. Unique businesses throughout the City with unique challenges, such as hotels could also be a part of this unit's purview.

CP Ortega asked if the Police Department has a specific unit for human trafficking. DC Lattanzi stated that this unit will be housed within the Community Impact Unit. The investigators in that unit are the staff at this agency that focus on human trafficking and vice operations. They are connected to the FBI and other Ohio agencies that focus on that.

Chief Páez thanked CP Ortega for the lens of that question to help articulate what this team is trying to add. Chief Páez compared the Unit to school resource officers and their assignment to that particular environment. Officers in that environment know the people, resources, schedule, events, etc. The intention is to immerse officers in those densely populated areas to be able to pay attention to parking garages, traffic issues, events, etc. and to have these officers connected

to the right points of contact. It does not completely remove the responsibility of patrol officers. They will still be in the district.

CP Barnes asked about the boundaries and if this Business District Unit is considered community policing for a particular area. DC Lattanzi stated that the focus of this unit from day-to-day is going to be within the business district; however, they could work with other businesses throughout the City, especially those with unique needs specific to their environments. CP Barnes asked if Bridge Park has a business organization and/or residential organizations. He asked how those relationships will be built. DC Lattanzi stated that they do have several residential organizations and Crawford Hoying has a business organization. Dublin's intention is to host a stakeholder meeting to gain collective understanding of issues that they may face and make a connection with those organizations.

Chair Maynard mentioned other areas that may be covered such as medical campuses. He appreciates the conversations around the growth and proactive approach of the Police Department.

Chief Páez stated that 24 hours/day there are patrol officers covering the City of Dublin. That will not change. The Business District Unit is not allocating officers away from patrol coverage. There are six districts throughout the City. This team is a specialized function focused on issues. This is a new tool within the Community Impact Unit.

CP Barnes stated that is what he was hoping would come out of this unit. From what has been seen in other communities, this type of center could be the center of crime for the future.

CP Xing stated that she assumes the Tuttle Mall area has a lot of these same issues. Chief Páez stated that Bridge Park has a lot of density. Tuttle Mall is in Columbus so is it not under the City of Dublin's jurisdiction.

DC Lattanzi stated that staff could share a map of the police districts.

CP Foley asked if they are concerned this unit will be overwhelmed quickly with the workload with hotels, patrolling, etc. He asked if there is a plan to expand a unit like this.

Chief Páez stated that staff wants to learn as much as possible from this team. Part of starting a new unit requires a period of learning. The balance of work related to the Business District Unit's specialization focused and funneling through the unit but being supported by others in the police department is how it will work best.

### *Public Safety Technology*

Chief Páez shared with the Committee how public safety technology is shaping how public safety is delivered effectively and efficiently. Dublin has two camera systems across the City. Meraki cameras are intersection cameras placed across the City in partnership with Transportation and Mobility and are intended to provide an opportunity to look back at events that may have occurred to gather information, to look at traffic patterns. They are not necessarily monitored in live time but are accessible when necessary. The Police Department has the ability to use that video as a

starting point for an investigation. The other resources partnered in some areas but also independent in others at intersections are the Flock Safety Cameras. There are several communities across the State of Ohio and the United States that have leveraged this technology to help gather information for the intention of being able to utilize it to notify officers when a license plate has information attached to it that has a public safety concern. This system collects license plate information only. It also has the active ability to notify officers in the area when there is a concern with a vehicle that has entered the community or is traveling through the community. There are a number of success stories across the implementation of those two camera systems.

DC Tabernik stated that the strategy was to have the two systems complement one another. At a City level, the Department uses Meraki for City buildings and as intersection cameras. It is a partnership between the Police Department, Information Technology (IT) and Transportation and Mobility. The cameras have a public safety function. If we wanted to view a stolen vehicle or a crime that just happened, those are all possibilities. They also help with crash investigations. This has given staff an opportunity to use technology to help serve and protect the community. There have been a couple of recent examples where nightshift officers have done a great job utilizing this technology. They are able to pull up these technologies and try to locate a stolen vehicle and from that point use intersection cameras to locate suspects. They can follow suspects avoiding police interaction and get into a position to take them into custody.

CP Barnes asked how they are deployed. DC Tabernik stated that the Police Department has had many calls with IT that get into granular details about infrastructure (fiber, electricity, etc.), direction and distance. Those were considerations of the group in order to strategically place the cameras around the City. CP Barnes asked how many cameras were deployed. DC Tabernik stated that there are 25 Flock cameras (license plate readers), 22 of which are stationary. There are an estimated 30 Meraki cameras devoted to this project. Some intersections may have more than one camera. Funding for additional cameras has been approved by City Council.

CP Ortega asked if retention of the film aligns with body cam footage. DC Tabernik stated that the retention period varies. It depends on the quality. The retention is much shorter for higher resolution images. CP Ortega asked if each camera can be handled differently. DC Tabernik stated that retention and image quality can be changed for each camera. IT is fantastic at helping with that.

DC Tabernik stated that a benefit of the Meraki cameras on City property is that the Police Department has access to live view or historical data.

Chief Páez stated that a technology to be introduced at the end of the year this year and beginning of next year is an autonomous security robot. Nightscope Industries manufactures this autonomous security robot. There is one in use at the Cardinal Health parking lot. He thanked City Council and the City Manager for encouraging the use of this technology as a resource. There is potential of using this technology in the parking garage at library. There have been occasions over the development of that parking garage for officers to pay attention to activity that is not aligned with the designed intent. If there is a resource to place at that location that frees up officers to be somewhere else but can also gather information, be a deterrent, give people

confidence in that location, the Department should lean into it. Part of this project is staff working with the company (Nightscope Industries) to identify how to do that. Maybe this usage could be an example for other areas that develop.

DC Lattanzi stated that staff has spent time with Nightscope discussing the possibilities of a security robot in the City of Dublin. It was determined that there is an application for this technology here in Dublin so the project will be going forward with two security robots. One of the robots will be used in the library parking garage. The robots have 360-degree cameras and two-way communication that operates as a call box. Someone in distress could approach a robot, push a button and be connected to dispatch. Each robot will have lights on it and can be used as a deterrent. The second robot will traverse a path near Riverside Crossing Park east. They station on a dock and will travel for about 12 hours at a time, 84 hours/week. They will be unique/branded and readily identifiable.

CP Foley asked if someone will be monitoring the security robots. DC Lattanzi stated that there will not be someone monitoring them the entire time they are out. There would likely be an officer, likely a member of the Business District Unit (BDU), that would log in to software to utilize two-way communication or send a robot to a specific location.

CP Ortega asked if they had started a poll to name the robots. DC Lattanzi stated that they have not yet.

CP Ortega asked about terrain and if it would be possible to redeploy them to different assignments. DC Lattanzi stated that the units weigh about 450 pounds and have to be programmed to a certain route. There is not the ability to move them as freely as some of the other technology.

CP Barnes asked if there are restrictions on publicly owned and private property. DC Lattanzi stated that the City owns the library parking garage. Part of the BDU is to establish connections and make suggestions for safety and security solutions. Dublin's use of this technology gives leverage in being able to speak to the success and implementation that this program may have for other businesses.

CP Xing asked if this robot is basically a moving camera. DC Lattanzi stated that it is movable. Regarding terrain, it needs to be on paved surface. The robot provides the Police Department with the opportunity to deter activity through its presence. It has lights that could be deployed. It also provides a moving connection to the dispatch center. Should someone need help and not have access to resources to make a phone call, they can use this to reach communications technicians for help.

Chief Páez stated that it collects license plates but not in the same way as Flock. DC Lattanzi stated that Flock uses technology and connects into a law enforcement database, the security robot does not do that. The robot is not able to send an alert to any officers. Chief Páez stated that this is a passive way to have information and provide leads.

Chair Maynard sought confirmation that the robot will traverse different floors of parking garage. Chief Páez answered affirmatively. CP Ortega stated that she has seen them elsewhere and they are interesting. She asked if there is a defense mechanism if someone would try to steal/vandalize the unit. DC Lattanzi stated that while he is not sure, it likely has a tracking mechanism. The cameras are a helpful deterrent to vandalism.

CP Foley asked if the City is risking liability by someone running into the robot. DC Lattanzi stated that it could use the camera. In addition to the included lights and technology, there are some other things like swing arms, that are going to be happening within the garage that should deter some of the driving concerns.

Chief Páez stated that all these questions went through staff's minds as well. Part of leaning into innovation is learning. Staff wanted to share this information with the committee as technology you'll hear about and maybe see. If members are asked about it, staff wanted members to be able to share why Dublin is utilizing some of the technology.

A photo of the K5 Knightscope was shared with the group.

Chief Páez stated that presently Dublin Police Department has a drone program. He is proud of Sergeant Clark and his team for leaning into that technology. There are 25 drone pilots within the Police Department of 78 authorized positions. There has been great utilization of that program. Some of the development of the technology is that the crash team now uses it to map crash scenes. The next evolution is a drone as first responder program. This is a relatively new initiative across the country. Dublin is blessed to have the support of City Council and the City Manager to receive funding for this Capital Project. This would allow officers to utilize a drone positioned on top of a building in an emergency or advance of police response to a particular area, they can autonomously launch that drone from a program. The software allows it to operate in a drag and drop manner much like Google Maps. Technology has progressed to the point that almost anyone can do it with minimal training. It offers the ability to see the area prior to an officer responding, providing information in advance of traveling there from a vantage point that would be difficult to achieve at a cost that would be effective.

DC Tabernik stated that these will be positioned on top of buildings. Staff is thinking strategically about how to cover 25 square miles of the City and 30 square miles of Dublin City School district. The goal is to have coverage of those areas and maximum overlap coverage in areas that are the largest carriers of calls. Sgt. Clark has done a great job of strategizing that. Decisions have not yet been made on what schools the units will be positioned upon but maximum coverage and overlap is the goal.

Chair Maynard asked how many of the drones as first responder units the Department has. DC Lattanzi stated that the intention is to obtain four to be placed strategically throughout the City on rooftops and one additional drone housed within the Community Impact Unit utilized in a different manner. The areas of consideration for drone placement give the Police Department the opportunity to have a drone overhead of any portion of the City or Dublin City School district buildings within 90 seconds or less.

CP Ortega asked if this tool would be expected to be shared with a neighboring jurisdiction. DC Tabernik stated that staff has talked about that. These units have a 2-mile optimal range. 3-mile is really stretching it for battery life and distance. That does go outside of the City. It would be treated the same as mutual aid when a neighboring jurisdiction asks for help. The program is in its infancy but helping public safety partners is a possibility.

Chief Páez stated that the focus with police technology is to improve emergency response, to provide a preventative resource, and to produce the foundation for investigatory leads. It is completely connected to the way in which the Department wants to utilize technology. Part of sharing this information is to ensure that it is done in partnership with the community.

CP Baer stated that when this topic was presented to the Citizens Police Academy, the enthusiasm and knowledge of the Police Department was impressive and infectious. The expansion of the use of technology within the City is encouraging.

## **Old Business**

### *City Council Presentation*

Vice Chair Hollie stated that this past Monday (November 18, 2024) she and Chair Maynard presented with other advisory committees to City Council. She recognized CP Apolinario and CP Barnes for attending the Council meeting. The presentation summarized the memo and presented to City Council items discussed in the committee's meetings. It was well-received. She met people from other committees. Vice Chair Hollie expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to do that.

Chair Maynard stated that he was happy to hear how the other committees presented. It is good to know there are other persons we could call community partners doing meaningful work on behalf of the City. He thought it was interesting that members of the other committees have been selected to participate in Envision Dublin and no one on this committee was extended an invitation. When there was a joint meeting in February, this committee had the most in attendance. Chief Páez stated that was the meeting where feedback was provided. Other committees did not have any additional engagement opportunities.

### *Additional Old Business*

CP Ortega asked if there was demographic information that outlined the leadership demographics. Does the leadership reflect the whole organization? Chief Páez stated that in preparation for the last meeting, staff worked with their professional standards manager, Whitney Aebker and Jillian Fair, Human Resources Business Partner to share a report that is compiled annually for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He will send it out to the committee. CP Ortega asked if the Department has had any luck getting a contact with Franklin County MRSS (Mobile Response and Stabilization Services). DC Tabernik stated that through Ms. Black-Dotson, they have secured a great contact. She shares information and keeps a running list of resources. Staff has utilized them a few times and they are a great resource.

## **Staff Comments/Updates**

*Update on Crime Trends and Police Activity/Resilient Neighborhoods*

Chief Páez stated that on October 28, 2024 there was a fall meeting of Homeowners' Association (HOA) leadership. Staff shared the same presentation with committee members as part of Resilient Neighborhoods. The intention is to have HOAs ask the Police Department to come out and share information and bring officers who work in that district to meet community members. Part of the information is a check-in on crime trends.

Year-to-date, Dublin Police officers have seen:

- Decrease in overall theft offenses;
- Decrease in theft from vehicles;
- Decrease in theft of vehicles; and
- Increase in burglary and breaking and entering offenses (6 more) 48 is more than they would like to see.

Chief Páez offered the following advice as we go into holiday season. Please be sure to remove anything of value from cars. If you choose to carry a firearm, please remove it from the vehicle. Thieves are looking specifically for firearms. If traveling, Dublin Police has a house watch system. If you have security systems, make sure those are up to date and you know how to use them. Talk to your neighbors.

CP Foley asked if numbers on burglaries break down into garage doors left open or forceable entry. Chief Páez stated that they do have that information. The first half of 2024 saw a lot of construction site burglaries. They have seen more burglaries than in the past.

Chief Páez highlighted examples of excellent police work utilizing technology. The Community Impact Unit has spent a lot of time on offenses occurring in a particular area of town where ten vehicles were abandoned. They were not stolen in Dublin but were left there.

DC Lattanzi stated that this activity started in July of 2024. There were stolen vehicles from other points in Central Ohio that were being discarded near Conine Drive. Members of the Community Impact Unit's investigations identified two juvenile suspects involved in stealing dozens of vehicles outside of Dublin. They were able to utilize some camera technology to get photographs of individuals coming out of stolen cars. Through technology, partner agencies and surveillance, officers were able to identify two juveniles responsible for at least 10 vehicles here in Dublin and several others outside the City of Dublin in the Columbus/Whitehall area. Those investigators are working with the juvenile prosecutor to recommend charges through the juvenile prosecutor's office of Franklin County.

CP Barnes asked if the City has biometric capabilities. DC Lattanzi stated that they do not have facial recognition capabilities yet. There is some technology that has evolved and is very accurate now but we do not have that yet. In this instance, we utilized school resource officers from other school jurisdictions as well as traffic officers to help make identification.

DC Tabernik shared an example of officers successfully leveraging technology. He applauded third shift officers working to hold people accountable for their actions. Flock alerted staff of a stolen vehicle. The latency of alerts is between 10-15 seconds. Officers work as a team to try to locate the vehicle. They located the vehicle. It had several people in it. The vehicle fled. Officers did not chase the vehicle as they did not want to endanger the public for a stolen vehicle. Officers



canvassed the area and located an individual who was walking in the very early morning. His story did not explain why he was at this location. Through investigation, officers came to find out that the vehicle was then involved in a pursuit in other jurisdictions who ultimately caught the vehicle and three people in the vehicle. They were there to steal other vehicles in Dublin. It is exciting to note this incident because officers held someone accountable and prevented other criminal activity.

DC Tabernik shared another example of good police work leveraging technology. October 31, a Flock camera issued an alert for a stolen vehicle. Ultimately the individuals left the vehicle before officers could find it. The vehicle was found with no suspects in it. A communications technician got on a Meraki camera and saw people walking across Riverside Drive at a time when not many people were out. Officers detained all eight individuals on the Link bridge. Multiple people had stolen property on them. This was fantastic police work, technology and leveraging policing skills.

Chair Maynard asked if there is any information that helps explain why people are dropping cars off in Dublin. DC Lattanzi stated that two of the individuals resided close by. DC Tabernik stated that in the instance he spoke about, the suspects were undoubtedly in Dublin to steal more stuff.

Vice Chair Hollie asked how many officers were involved in detaining eight individuals. DC Tabernik stated six or seven officers were involved. The suspects were compliant, and Dublin officers are great at talking to people. CP O'Ryan asked if they were also juveniles. DC Tabernik stated that three were adults and five were juveniles. DC Lattanzi stated no information that there was anyone else involved in the theft of those vehicles or dropping of those vehicles.

Chief Páez stated that Dublin Police reports are posted at [communitycrimemap.com](http://communitycrimemap.com). The same map system is used across the country when a community contributes to the resource at Lexis Nexis.

Chief Páez encouraged HOAs to contact police to request a presentation and to bring officers out to meet with community members. Communities that received the Resilient Neighborhoods presentation this year were Wyandotte Woods, Indian Run Meadows and Bridge Park West. He closed with an evergreen reminder about theft from vehicles – lock your vehicle, take it with you, and remember your keys.

Chair Maynard stated earlier in the year there was discussion about communicating with business districts about how to promote the same kind of message. He asked if staff has seen any signage or efforts by business entities to do passive messaging to community members. Chief Páez stated that there have been visits to hotels and some targeted areas. This comment encourages us to go back and focus deliver that message outside normal mechanisms. The Police Department has car locks and gun locks, free resources available at the Police Department. Other technologies to help with vehicle location could be a tile or airtag. He advised people to hide it somewhere not easily located and do not try to recover a vehicle yourself.

In response to a comment about an officer with visible tattoos, Chief Páez stated that it shows the ability of officers to present their unique identity.

*Chief's Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Dates*

Mr. Ament addressed Envision Dublin and the other advisory committees. The Community Services Advisory Committee reported on the topic. They were citing Envision Dublin as a project on which they acted as a sounding board. They did not have a member on the steering committee. All advisory committees are credited in the Envision document as contributors.

Mr. Ament shared the proposed 2025 meetings dates with the Committee and asked for a motion adopting the calendar. Chief Páez stated that this calendar would put the meetings in the Council Chamber. That is something the Council Clerk's office would prefer, allowing the group to utilize that space.

CP O'Ryan noted that the date in March occurs over Dublin's spring break. CP Apolinario asked why the June and November dates were on Tuesdays. Mr. Ament explained that it was due to conflicts with other bodies that have already adopted their meeting schedule.

Ms. Maxwell explained that adopted the calendar this evening does not prevent the committee from amending a date as the year progresses.

Chair Maynard stated that he is not a fan of many of the dates including spring break. He noted that for 2024, they selected the third Thursday of the month and made it work.

Ms. Maxwell added that most of the dates in 2025 are on second Thursdays.

Chair Maynard stated that he liked the third Thursday. The group has been meeting in the development building for three or four years. Mr. Ament shared that the Chief's Advisory Committee is the only public body that currently meets in the development building and not in the Council Chamber.

CP Goel moved to adopt the 2025 meeting dates as proposed and reschedule any dates that do not work for the majority of the group at a future meeting. CP Barnes seconded the motion.

**Discussion on the Motion:**

CP Apolinario stated that when he received the dates from staff, he blocked those dates in his calendar for 2025. Vice Chair Hollie thanked Mr. Ament for putting the schedule together. It is easier when it is a more consistent day. She enjoys meeting in the Council Chamber.

Chair Maynard asked if anyone had an issue with meeting on September 11, 2025. CP Foley stated that as a retired officer, he would take it as an honor to meet on that day for something like this where we are assisting the Police Department in performing their jobs.

Ms. Maxwell stated that having the meetings in the Council Chamber has up-to-date equipment and helps with public perception so that they understand all public bodies meet in the Council Chamber. It would also more appropriately accommodate a larger group of public.

