



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee (In Person) Thursday, April 13, 2023

Welcome to Committee by Chief Páez

Chief Páez welcomed the committee to the meeting.

Committee Members Present: W. Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Ajmeri Hoque (Vice Chair), Emmet Apolinario, Susan Ortega, Kimberly Hollie, Alex O’Ryan, Zhen Xing, Yanling Yin, Gaurav Goel, Rama Billakenty; Chief Justin Páez, Deputy Chief Nick Tabernik, Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi, Jay Somerville, Rebecca Myers, Officer Amber McCloskey; Guests: Chuck Collier, Dublin City Schools, Sheriff Jamie Patton, Union County Sheriff’s Office, FBI Agents Greg Naples and Vic Ciapas, Dee Marks Dublin City Schools
Minutes by: Becky Metcalf

Chief Páez welcomed all to the meeting and deferred to Chair Maynard for opening remarks.

Committee Business

Chair Maynard welcomed all to the third iteration of the Chief’s Advisory Committee. He thanked the guests that came out and welcomed the newest members to the committee. Reflecting globally, he keeps those persons involved in the Ukraine invasion in thought and prayer. Next week sees Earth Day; he expressed that all should be more mindful about protecting the environment. He shared is awareness nationally; gun violence and mass shootings are once again things that we have to deal with, more have occurred since last meeting. The Tennessee school shooting and Kentucky shooting at a business, both involving young people committing these mass shootings. He shared is focus locally, highlighting crime that occurred in Dublin today, characterized as violent crime, occurring in neighborhoods and causing community concern. He asked that as members dialogue with the department, consider what they can do to get word out to best keep the community safe and get started with the work. Chair Maynard deferred to Chief Páez to call roll.

- **Attendance**

Chief Páez called roll for the meeting:
Chair Dwayne Maynard – present
Vice Chair Ajmeri Hoque – present

Mr. Emmet Apolinario – present
Mr. Alex O’Ryan – present
Ms. Susan Ortega –present
Ms. Yanling Yin – present
Ms. Zhen Xing – present
Ms. Kimberly Hollie – present
Mr. Gaurav Goel – present
Ms. Rama Billakenty – present

Chief recognized those from department and introduced the guests visiting. Greg Naples of the JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force, FBI) and JTTF, Vic Ciapas, Public Corruption Task Force. Chuck Collier Dublin City Schools, and Sheriff Jaime Patton Union County Sheriff’s Office. Chair Maynard welcomed back Susan Ortega as well.

Chair Maynard had the group introduce themselves to the new members and share the reason they joined the committee.

Review/Amend/Adopt Last Meeting’s Minutes

Chair Maynard asked if all had an opportunity to review minutes from the March 16, 2023 meeting. One correction was noted on page six to correct the spelling of the work “sked” to “asked”. In addition, Chair Maynard asked under new business, what “IPMA” stands for (International Personnel Management Association). Chair Maynard asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as amended from the March 16, 2023 meeting. There was a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. All were in favor and the minutes for March 16, 2023 were approved as amended.

Old Business

Chair Maynard asked if there was any old business. Chief Páez shared that HR Business Partner Whitney Aebker was still awaiting to hear back from some agency’s with information and that she hopes to come back to the next meeting.

New Business

Chief’s Update

Chief Páez thanked DC Tabernik and guests who joined the evening’s meeting. Tonight’s focus brings together partners that share and respond to critical incidents.

Greg Naples introduced himself and shared some personal information. He is currently with the FBI JTTF, attending tonight to provide an introduction about the FBI and answer any questions. They cover 56 offices that are broken down into investigative agencies, which are then divided into different squads. There are only 13,000 agents throughout the country. Vic Ciapas introduced himself and shared some personal information. He works out of the Columbus office, agent on public corruption. His work is centered in the Columbus area and surrounding counties, focusing on color of law cases as well as some

work on hate crimes. Agent Naples reiterated the importance of those strong relationships, working together and sharing information. They also work with Ohio School Safety Centers. Chuck Collier added that every school has to have a threat mitigation team; each school even the elementary schools have a team. This is definitely a community problem. Sheriff Patton asked if they thought it would take the tech companies that are in control of all this (social media), to come up with red flags to identify problems. Agent Naples shared that they do have cooperation with some tech companies but that many apps come from overseas and there is no oversight. Some secured messaging apps are locked and you cannot get access. Agent Ciapas offered to come and speak to any groups to help break down those barriers.

Zhen Xing shared her concerns about the political tensions between the US and China and how that might trickle down into those communities in the US. Agent Ciapas shared that if there is a group that the members think they should talk to, they would welcome the opportunity.

Kimberly Hollie asked about the FBI and human trafficking. Agency Ciapas advised that there is a Human Trafficking Task Force. DC Lattanzi shared Dublin's work with them and that Dublin's Community Impact Unit (CIU) works closely with that task force and recently successfully convicted an individual involved with human trafficking. One detective is assigned to work with that unit as well. Chief Páez shared how this demonstrates the connectivity with all of the resources and how they work together.

Chief Páez shared that both Agency Naples and Ciapas have come into the department and conducted some training, one specifically built our awareness as an agency to identify hate crimes. One incident in particular, the Michigan Governor kidnapping incident, Agency Naples was with us working that situation.

Chief Páez also shared in regard to school safety that there are a number of incidents that occur throughout the school year that don't rise to a criminal charge. Officers respond, investigate issues, and then determine what is the right correct course of action working with the schools.

Dee Marks asked if there has ever been any consideration of contacting vendors who participate in various events on how to identify hate crimes and what to do. Agency Naples has worked with Columbus Police, who created liaison units who have seen some success in doing this. Dee Marks also shared that having the community aware would be very affective. Agency Naples commented that, for example, Stonewall has many planning meetings. Those meetings would be a good place to start to get information about those training opportunities.

Vice Chair Hoque asked how many people of color they have in Columbus. They advised about 10-15 people of color. Agency Ciapas advised that the bureau has been working

on hiring more diverse personnel but that it is always a work in progress. Vice Chair Hoque shared that she feels it is easier to come talk to someone that looks like you; fear is a factor but stress even more so.

Chief Páez shared that a year ago, we had the conversation of how do our conversations get pushed out to the community. He reiterated that they are always open to go out, meet with smaller groups of the community, and have conversations.

Chair Maynard asked if they were planning to attend the meeting on 4/20 hosted by Dublin Schools. Chief Páez advised that the school focused on that agenda and have scheduled what they plan on addressing. Sheriff Patton advised that he does have someone that will be attending.

Chair Maynard asked which enforcement agency would assist in the arrest of the air national guard person who leaked military documents. Agency Naples advised that the Boston Division of the FBI, Counter Intelligence Squad would work those warrants. Chair Maynard asked if that person falls into the category of domestic terrorism. Agent Naples advised at this point it does not but could if they do find evidence with their investigation. It is currently an espionage type of crime.

Vice Chair Hoque asked if investigations are ever changed or influenced. Agent Ciapas shared that while working public corruption cases, he has never felt influenced when working these case. He follows the evidence, follows the facts and has never had pressure from supervisors or up the chain. Agent Naples shared that an agent swears to uphold the constitution; politics do not drive what they investigate.

Emmett Apolinario asked about cybercrime. Agent Naples advised that they do have a group that handles those cyber threats 24-7. Agent Ciapas commented that their cyber folks are very skilled, cyber elements are playing a great role and they have to keep up and continue training to keep up. Agency Naples advised that swatting, hoaxes, sextortion, many are coming from overseas. There is a squad located here in Columbus.

Vice Chair Hoque commented that often times mass shooters don't leave a trail, at what point does the FBI step in after multiple reports have been made on an individual. Agent Naples commented that is a good point, a crime has not been committed, but when tips are received they can look at their activity, they unfortunately have no authority to mandate individuals seek help. It is a challenge getting youth mental help.

Susan Ortega shared her perspective as a health care profession and the limitations and challenges they face. She asked if they have any other events upcoming this summer. Agent Naples shared that the School Safety Summit will be in July and is a two-day event but they are trying to get more events on the calendar.

Chair Maynard thanked them for sharing the information and invited them to pass out the information they had to share to the members.

Chief Páez commented that the meeting had a full committee, all members were in attendance, and they would take a group photo later. Additionally he shared, making sure that we are open and transparent, an update on crime. The city is seeing fewer theft, theft from vehicle, and theft of motor vehicle offenses. There has been an increase in burglary/breaking and entering offenses. We have seen historic low numbers over past two years. There has been good detective work done identifying theft rings traveling through Dublin, some suspects later arrested in Carmel, IN. Cpl. Howard had another burglary where he was able to make an ID and charged the individual.

Yanling Yin asked if he had this information available to share. Chief Páez advised that they are preparing for the Spring HOA Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday (4/19) and have been working on gathering that information to share at this event. Once completed, they will also share with the committee.

Rebecca Myers added that information from the robberies that occurred over the weekend is on the website. Nextdoor is also a great resource.

Vice Chair Hoque asked about if juvenile crime is staying the same. Chief Páez shared that they are still seeing some activity, and that some suspects have been identified. Columbus Police Department has been great partner targeting these issues.

Chief Páez shared more information on incidents that occurred over weekend. There were two robberies, personal in nature; fortunately, both victims did not suffer serious or long-term injury. He did not have anything additional to provide other than what had been released to the public. The department has also shared safety reminders to help ensure this doesn't occur again. The department's crime analyst reviewed serious events that have occurred and Dublin is still a very safe community. In context with 50,000 residents, what does that look like compared to other communities. The most recent FBI crimes stats are from 2021, looking at surrounding suburbs and Columbus, violent crime per 1,000 residents in Dublin, in 2021 Dublin was the lowest in any of those jurisdictions.

Chair Maynard asked how the news ran the story, how does that happen, nobody spoke from Dublin about the story but they shared tips. Rebecca Myers shared that the information they shared did come from us via information on Nextdoor. All media communication does go through Rebecca. Chair Maynard feels that sometimes the news media are trying to say, "I got you".

Chief Páez advised that that we shared information with the immediate area first, then put it out to the entire community. Additional information was shared on Monday.

Rebecca Myers commented that that news outlet commented that Dublin had not shared any information but that was incorrect.

Yanling Yin asked if Dublin actively reaches out to the media so things like that do not happen. Rebecca Myers advised that we do work with them, but the main goal is to reach residents first, and then include media if a broader message is needed. This is not the best example of the partnerships we have with the media.

Chair Maynard asked about the need for resources to deal with mass shootings. Chief Páez shared that we are always looking for the best equipment and resources. After Uvalde, the department purchased entry tools and supplied additional tools to be carried in all cruisers.

Sheriff Patton advised that they also got support in acquiring breaching tools, and that SWAT has ballistic helmets but it does come with challenges when talking about getting that additional equipment.

Rebecca Myers advised that they would do an additional photo at next meeting.

Sheriff Patton appreciated the invite and relationship with Dublin. They have two Dublin Schools in Union County and have a great working relationship with schools and the police department. He again thanked them for invite and appreciated being at the meeting.

Chair Maynard entertained a motion to adjourn; Rama Billakenty motioned to adjourn and Gaurav Goel seconded the motion. The committee adjourned to take a group photo and the meeting officially ended at 7:30pm.

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