**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Chief’s Advisory Committee (In Person)**

**Thursday, July 20, 2023**

Committee Members Present: W. Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Ajmeri Hoque, Emmet Apolinario, Gaurav Goel, Zhen Xing, Susan Ortega; Chief Justin Páez, Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi, Officer Amber McCloskey, Rebecca Myers

Minutes by: Becky Metcalf

**Welcome to Committee by Chief Páez**

Chief Páez welcomed the committee to the meeting. Quorum in attendance. Chief Páez deferred to Chair Maynard for opening remarks.

Chair Maynard thanked all for attending and made opening remarks. He shared his thoughts thinking globally, being aware nationally and being focused locally.

**Committee Business**

Chair Maynard deferred to Chief Páez to call roll and thanked all for coming out to the meeting for this important undertaking.

* **Attendance**

Chief Justin Páez called roll for the meeting:

Chair Dwayne Maynard – present

Vice Chair Kimberly Hollie – not present

Ajmeri Hoque – present

Mr. Emmet Apolinario – present

Mr. Gaurav Goel – present

Ms. Susan Ortega – present

Ms. Zhen Xing – present

Mr. Alex O’Ryan – not present

Ms. Yanling Yin – not present

Ms. Rama Billakenty – not present

**Review/Amend/Adopt Last Meeting’s Minutes**

Chair Maynard asked if all had an opportunity to review minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting. All had an opportunity to review minutes. Chair Maynard asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were no corrections or additions. Chair Maynard asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 15, 2023. Ajmer Hoque motioned to adopt the minutes and Susan Ortega seconded the motion.

Chief Páez polled the members for their vote to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2023 meeting: Chair Maynard, I; Ajmeri Hoque, I; Susan Ortega, I; Emmet Apolinario, I; Gaurav Goel, I; Zhen Zing, I.

The minutes for June 15, 2023 were adopted without objection.

**Old Business**

Chair Maynard asked the committee if there was any old business. Committee requested an update on Safe Space and the Service Coordinator search.

Chief Páez provided an update of the Safe Space Program. The department is currently in the process of working with Dublin Methodist and other Ohio Health facilities in the city to come on board and be safe space locations. Additional officers internally have been trained in delivering the program: Officer Dobney, Ives-Stone and Moreland. They will assist in delivering training.

Ajmeri Hoque asked how they are trained to navigate the rhetoric going on right know in regard to what is trying to be accomplished by the program. Chief Páez shared that the closest comparison public event was the Rainbow Dublin Pride event in June. Police were present to ensure safety at that event. Officer McCloskey advised that is a really good point, and to her knowledge they have not been sent on any calls like that, but on patrol far too frequently they are sent on suspicious person calls, and the only thing suspicious is that they are black. As a shift, they ask questions for the communications technician to ask the caller, what are they doing that is suspicious.

Chief Páez shared that they hope to get all participants together to share information, update, etc… Susan Ortega does like the idea of getting everyone together. She asked if a business participant has a question could they call the non-emergency line. Chief Páez advised yes.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if there have been any specific instances where someone has come to one of the safe spaces. Chief Páez shared that City Hall was one of the first locations and then the subject was sent to police for further assistance. Susan Ortega advised that they had one person who came into Syntero.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if the businesses report back to the department. Chief Páez advised the intention is to reach out annually and collect that information. This is a pilot program and we are learning as we go along. Susan Ortega suggested a google form to add to the business SOP so they can fill out at the time of occurrence and send off to police, as folks may not remember after time has passed.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if this has been communicated to the schools. Chief Páez advised it was shared at the schools district community meeting in April. Heading back into the school year SROs could share the information with the schools and students. Susan Ortega suggested also sharing at open houses etc. Sergeant Bill Morris is the main contact person for the program.

Gaurav Goel asked if the school would have any hesitation. Chief Páez advised that at the time, they were on board with sharing information about the program but a school would not be utilized as a safe space location. Susan Ortega also suggested including the information in student informational packets. Chief Páez advised that with the addition of the other officers they hope to start reaching out and providing the training to more locations.

Chair Maynard suggests this might be a good topic to revisit six months out and discuss any concerns partners may have had.

Chief Páez shared the status of the process of the Service Liaison position and Susan Ortega advised that they are still searching for a candidate.

**New Business**

DC Lattanzi shared information on city special event safety planning. Memorial Tournament, July 4th and Irish Festival are the largest events; but there is equal planning and preparation for other events like parades and other community events. The department works with federal, state and other local resources for input or information on any concerns (i.e., JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force), Secret Service, STACC (Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center), Columbus Police Department Special Events, Columbus Police Department Counter Terrorism, Delaware County Tactical Unit, Franklin County Bomb Squad, Columbus Fire Bomb Squad, local mutual aid officers). DC Lattanzi reviewed an event action plan with the committee and answered any questions.

Chief Páez suggested for a future meeting to have a demonstration from the drone team.

**Chief’s Update**

Recognized Officer Gwen Whittaker’s recent presentation of the department’s Life Saving Award.

Chief Páez provided staffing updates for the department. Lt. promotion process upcoming with the departure of Lt. Gallagher; that then creates a vacancy in the Sergeant Rank. Promotion of Jake Williams from Detective to Sergeant. Officer Jordan Ratliff, who was in the process with Jake Williams, will then be promoted to Sergeant. Police test held in June; 44 participated in testing and 33 passed; panel interviews completed this past week; nine moving forward to backgrounds; then final interview in late Fall. One officer graduated this past Friday from the Columbus Police Academy, Officer Jon Riordan. Officer Riordan comes to the department from the Austin Police Department, moves to the FTO phase next. The vacant Accreditation Manager position has been filled by Whitney Aebker; she will be transitioning from our HR business Partner to this position.

Rebecca Myers shared information about gun lock boxes available for pick up at the police department. Ongoing suicide prevention guide is available on the website as well.

Susan Ortega asked if there was any consideration about having those gun lock boxes available at Irish Festival. DC Lattanzi and Chief Páez would need to think through that or possibly even advertise the availability of picking up at the police department.

Chair Maynard asked the group if anyone had the opportunity to review the draft rules and regulations from last meeting.

Emmett Apolinario shared that on August 25, Chief Páez will be speaking at the Dublin AM Rotary 7:30AM location County Club of Muirfield.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if the department has any thoughts about a town hall event this fall. Chief Páez advised they have not had any discussion but that has been driven by the Chief’s Advisory Committee; if anyone has topics, they can talk about them at the next meeting. Chair Maynard suggests anything around safety in schools, resource officers, or other school related issues with the start of the new school year.

Chair Maynard asked if there was anything else to add for the good of order, there was nothing additional. With that, Chair Maynard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gaurav Goel motioned to adjourn the meeting and Emmet Appolinario seconded the motion. Chair Maynard asked if all members were in favor and all responded with I. Chair Maynard thanked all and the meeting officially adjourned without objection at 7:37 PM.

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