



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee Tuesday, March 17, 2026

The Tuesday, March 17, 2026 Chief's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Apolinario at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive. The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Emmet Apolinario (Vice Chair), Ron Barnes, Luke Powell, Lisa Baer, Alex O'Ryan, Dwayne Maynard, Gaurav Goel

Committee Members Absent: Kimberly Hollie (Chair), Zhen Xing, Chitra Goyal.

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief (DC) Tabernik, Deputy Chief (DC) Lattanzi, Sergeant (Sgt.) Jacob Williams, Officer Andrea Shull, Jeffrey Jiang.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair (V. Chair) Apolinario asked for additions or corrections to the 02-12-2025 minutes of the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting.

Community Partner (CP) Barnes moved, CP O'Ryan seconded approval of the minutes as presented.

Vote: CP Barnes, yes; CP Baer, yes; CP Powell, yes; CP Goel, yes; CP Maynard, yes; CP O'Ryan, yes; V. Chair Apolinario, yes.

[Motion carried 7-0.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Paez indicated there was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Detective Bureau Overview – Sergeant Jake Williams / Officer Andrea Shull**

DC Lattanzi introduced the presentation by commending the detective bureau for their exceptional work. He emphasized that whether detectives are scheduled to work or not, there is always a detective on call 24 hours a day. When major incidents occur, the department can rely on their expertise and response to assist with kicking off investigations, processing crime scenes,

interviewing witnesses, and bringing incidents to resolution. He noted that often these resolutions are achieved on the day on which the incidents happen based on information gathered at the scene.

DC Lattanzi highlighted the detectives' commitment and professionalism, noting they work long hours; during significant events, he has observed them working over 20 hours straight to ensure closure and resolution while providing comfort to crime victims. He then turned the presentation over to Sergeant (Sgt.) Williams.

Sgt. Williams introduced himself as the detective sergeant for Dublin Police Department (PD), serving in that role for almost three years and as a detective for a total of nine years. He explained the detective bureau's personnel structure, which includes a lieutenant, himself as detective sergeant, and five detectives who investigate cases and carry caseloads. Sgt. Williams noted that he also investigates cases and carries a caseload in addition to his supervisory duties.

Sgt. Williams described their normal schedule as having detectives present Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM, with some fluctuation in those hours. He emphasized that they maintain a detective on call 24 hours a day along with a detective supervisor on call. He explained that all their detectives are very experienced, coming from different levels in their careers. When posting for a new detective position, they require at least two years of experience as a patrol officer, with all detectives having prior patrol experience. Generally, detectives come into the detective bureau (bureau) around the seven-to-eight-year mark in their careers, though some may have even more experience.

Sgt. Williams explained they have extensive specialized training requirements before allowing a detective to join the on-call schedule. This creates motivation for new detectives to complete their training quickly so they can become contributing team members. The specialized training includes general investigation, death investigation, sexual assault investigation, new hire background investigations for officers, crime scene processing, photography as a component of crime scene processing, and interviewing techniques.

Sgt. Williams discussed the types of cases they investigate, emphasizing that while some detectives have specializations, all are trained and capable of investigating any type of case that comes in during on-call periods or through case assignment. They investigate death investigations including suicides, murders, suspicious or initially unexplained deaths, accidental deaths, workplace accidents, and overdose deaths. For overdose investigations, they look into the source of drugs beyond just the death itself. Sgt. Williams noted that many times during the investigation process, deaths are determined to be natural, but they still conduct thorough investigations to ensure nothing nefarious occurred.

The bureau investigates attempted murder, felonious assault, sexual assaults, various types of sex crimes, criminal child enticement, and online child exploitation. Sgt. Williams highlighted that Officer David Aronovic is a part-time member of the FBI's child exploitation and human trafficking task force, bringing specialization to those type of investigations. Sgt. Williams noted that he was previously a task force officer before Officer Aronovic, so he also has specialization in these investigations. The FBI provides excellent resources for these investigations, particularly with electronic forensics, which involves connecting cell phones, computers, or laptops to software to extract content from electronic devices. This capability is crucial for these types of investigations and many other cases.

Sgt. Williams expressed appreciation that their bureau has access to software for conducting much of this work in-house, while also having FBI resources available. They have also worked closely with Columbus Police and their forensic unit for some electronic forensics work.

The detective bureau investigates child abuse cases, often receiving referrals from Children Services or Nationwide Children's Hospital. They work with Children Services, handling the criminal aspects while Children Services handles other components of these investigations.

Sgt. Williams described their investigations of kidnapping, robbery, burglaries, and breaking and entering cases, explaining that burglaries involve homes being broken into while breaking and entering typically involves businesses. They investigate arson in close cooperation with Washington Township Fire Department, citing recent examples including the Ace Hardware and Marathon Station fires on West Bridge Street earlier in the year, as well as a recent home under construction fire near Cosgray and Shier Rings roads that was connected to several other arsons in Union County. Sgt. Williams noted this case is currently ongoing.

The bureau has investigated stalking cases, including a recent case involving someone from Cleveland who was attempting to break into a Dublin home and had set up a camera. Detectives traveled to Cleveland, arrested the suspect, and served a search warrant on his home, recovering crucial evidence.

Sgt. Williams then turned the presentation over to Detective Andrea Shull to discuss theft and fraud investigations, noting she is their resident expert in these types of cases.

Officer Shull explained that she has been with the agency for 23 years as a police officer and ten years as a detective. When she joined the detective bureau, she inherited the white-collar crime cases from a retiring detective. She embraced this assignment and sought as much training as possible in fraud investigation.

Officer Shull explained that beyond the basic training all detectives receive, she pursued additional fraud training, though such training is difficult to find locally. Over her career, she has continued seeking fraud training opportunities and recently obtained certification as a Certified Fraud Examiner through the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, earning the CFE credential.

She described the certification process as studying a 2,000-page fraud manual, comparing it to a bar exam for fraud. The certification required eight hours of testing across four categories: financial transactions and fraud schemes, law, investigation, and fraud prevention and deterrence. Each section involved a two-hour exam. Officer Shull also attended a review course in Texas where they would spend eight hours cramming on a topic, such as financial transactions and fraud schemes, then take a two-hour test on that section. By the end of the week, participants were exhausted but had earned their credentials.

Officer Shull explained this training helps her understand forensic accountants and accounting departments when they present embezzlement cases, as she needs to understand accounting methods to comprehend what they are explaining. The additional training ensures she knows what she is examining in these complex financial cases.

Officer Shull stated that she handles much of the identity theft work, though all detectives and even patrol officers handle these cases. Identity theft and telecommunications fraud appear in almost all her cases. She is seeing many scam cases, particularly cryptocurrency scam cases,

noting that cryptocurrency ATMs have become problematic as they result in significant victimization.

She described various scam types they encounter, including grandparent scams where victims receive calls claiming a grandchild has been arrested and needs money for bail, with someone pretending to be an attorney arranging for money transfers. Unfortunately, elderly individuals are often targeted because they tend to have more savings and may be less familiar with electronic systems like Bitcoin and computers, making them more vulnerable. Victimization in these scams can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Officer Shull explained they are working to enhance their abilities to investigate cryptocurrency crimes. Five years ago, when crimes involved cryptocurrency, they would have to tell victims the money was gone once it entered crypto systems. Now, there are people learning to investigate these crimes more effectively, and she participates in a crypto coalition with partners across the country and world. When tracing money that ends up in places like Jamaica or India, she can connect with association members in those countries for assistance.

This cryptocurrency investigation capability is relatively new for her, developing over the past year, and she hopes to see progress in seizing victim money through tracking and seizure operations. She acknowledged this will require significant work, including developing new policies, but believes it represents the future of much theft-related crime. As cryptocurrency becomes more widely used and regulated, she expects to see increased use in criminal activities, necessitating expanded training for Dublin PD beyond just herself.

Officer Shull explained that telecommunications fraud encompasses any fraud case involving computers, phones, ATMs, wired money transfers, or even emails, and does not necessarily require money to be involved. Many theft and identity fraud cases include telecommunications fraud components. She works closely with economic crimes prosecutors downtown to ensure these cases receive appropriate attention, noting that while white collar crimes are not violent crimes and may not receive the same attention as violent crimes, they cost billions of dollars and deserve serious consideration.

Officer Shull added that Officer Aronovic, who could not attend the meeting, has special training in arson investigation, which has proven fortunate given their recent arson cases. When investigating arsons, they work side by side with Washington Township Fire Department. Washington Township conducts the crime scene investigation because their personnel know how to examine arson scenes, determine how fires started, and collect evidence based on their training in recognizing fire-related evidence. While detectives are present during this process, they focus more on interviewing and suspect development once the fire investigation establishes the criminal nature of the incident. When charges are presented, they typically go through the police department rather than township arson investigators, though township investigators can present charges to the prosecutor's office.

V. Chair Apolinario thanked Officer Shull for the comprehensive information and noted that the fraud reports he sees monthly as a financial institution board member never mentioned law enforcement reporting possibilities. He asked about when romance scams, which are their number one fraud issue, should be reported to law enforcement versus handled as bank credit issues, particularly when customers willingly provided credentials and passwords due to trusting the romance scammer.

Officer Shull responded that this is a common question from bank representatives, explaining that individual institutions must determine their threshold for law enforcement involvement since they cannot be contacted for every small transaction. Larger banks like Chase have higher thresholds before involving law enforcement, but she has been contacted by various banks including Fifth Third and Chase for significant issues. She noted that she works with BMI's compliance section, which contacts her for cases involving \$5,000 or more, though she clarified there is no official threshold and they will investigate any case brought to them. Different institutions establish their own thresholds for law enforcement involvement.

CP Barnes asked about the department's handling of real-time crime centers and community engagement with data, noting that larger cities like Columbus and Cleveland have such units. He inquired about integration with these units and regional planning for digital processes, data management, and camera systems that capture license plates and other information for investigator access.

DC Lattanzi responded that regional connectivity represents one of their organization's strengths. Their detectives and investigators maintain excellent connections with regional law enforcement partners, and their law enforcement planner Officer Hirschy regularly connects with other agencies to discuss and identify regional crime trends. This allows them to connect resources when suspects may be responsible for crimes throughout the region.

He provided an example of an ongoing case involving young adults and juveniles responsible for vehicle theft, theft from vehicles, and firearm theft, targeting Dublin, Columbus, Upper Arlington, Powell, and Grandview Heights. This group was committing serious crimes by stealing firearms and using them in other crimes. Detectives and investigators collected information and held regular meetings with other jurisdictions, using information from various sources including strategically placed City cameras, Crawford Hoying cameras they have access to, and private business cameras collected during investigations.

The department houses collected video in their digital evidence portal, allowing investigators to review footage, develop suspects, identify vehicles, and run license plates through license plate reading software to identify other locations where specific vehicles have been present. This process helps narrow down suspect pools for investigators to gather additional evidence. In the theft cases described, this coordinated effort led to arrests the previous week, with search warrants executed by Dublin, Columbus, and other regional partners, resulting in suspects being taken into custody and stolen firearms and property being seized and impounded.

DC Tabernik added information about their intelligence partnerships, particularly with the STAC (Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center) located off Route 161 in the Linworth area. This Department of Public Safety intelligence hub allows them to provide intelligence and rely on intelligence from others. He cited examples of special events like the Saint Patrick's Day parade, Fourth of July, Irish Festival, and Memorial Tournament, where they utilize these intelligence resources.

DC Tabernik described a recent example involving a school swatting call, where someone made a fake call designed to induce significant police and fire response to create panic. They quickly reached out to STAC to determine if other schools were experiencing similar incidents, learning within 30 to 40 minutes that several schools in Central Ohio, Northeast Ohio, and throughout Ohio were experiencing the same issue. These intelligence partnerships help determine whether

incidents are isolated or connected to broader criminal activity and assist in holding perpetrators accountable.

Chief Paez acknowledged he was uncertain about other jurisdictions' real-time crime center operations but noted they effectively leverage technology, communication, and traditional patrol and detective responses together to resolve criminal incidents as they occur. He reflected on examples demonstrating their real-time capabilities without having full-time monitoring resources.

Chief Paez described a bank robbery from April of the previous year, unusual for Dublin since such activity occurs less frequently than in the past. Within six hours of the incident, they used City camera systems to identify a vehicle, obtain a license plate, locate the vehicle, and arrest the suspect. He highlighted the remarkable work from initial report and response through detective follow-through.

He described the arson incidents at the hardware store and gas station, where camera resources at the intersection captured the individual walking around the locations before fires were set. This footage provided confidence they had the correct person in custody and helped bolster the case presentation, ensuring they had the right person responsible without worrying about others continuing such activity.

For the ongoing fire investigation they are trying to connect with adjoining jurisdictions, doorbell camera footage from other investigations will help determine if they can identify and link their charged offense with other area offenses, as there are questions about whether their suspect is the only individual involved in these fires.

Chief Paez mentioned their drone as first responder program for gathering information and video quickly for officers. He referenced Sergeant Kovac's previous presentation about using the flock system to identify a stolen or unauthorized use vehicle in the community based on near real-time camera system information.

He described an evening when they were investigating a home construction fire while officers responded to an attempted trailer theft nearby. The suspects got stuck in their vehicle, leading to one quick arrest, but they deployed the drone as first responder due to divided resources that evening. The lieutenant used the DFR drone to locate the other suspect attempting to escape by swimming through a pond by the highway, enabling them to arrest the second individual safely.

Chief Paez detailed a recent assault involving a firearm where someone was struck with the weapon, not shot, and the suspect accidentally discharged the gun while leaving. In the past, without their current technologies, they might have only had a car description and general suspect description, making it difficult for officers to locate the perpetrator. Instead, they immediately accessed their camera and flock systems to identify the vehicle in the area at the incident time, backtracking to see the vehicle before the engagement and obtaining a license plate. Within a few days, detectives identified the vehicle and potential suspect, worked with another suburban agency, stopped the vehicle, detained the person, recovered the gun, and obtained a confession.

Chief Paez emphasized that collectively, their resources and technology combined with exceptional personnel who are committed, focused, and work diligently and relentlessly when incidents occur allows them to confidently assure the public that everyone is safe, perpetrators are held accountable, and cases will be followed through with professionalism to ensure custody today leads to accountability through the proper system.

V. Chair Apolinario asked whether insurance companies offer damage mitigation certification or educational components to share claim information that might benefit law enforcement departments.

Officer Shull responded that some insurance companies have approached them, not necessarily offering law enforcement training but reporting fraud they observe. She specifically mentioned storm damage situations where roofing companies offer free roof inspections, then cause damage to generate insurance claims. Insurance companies sometimes report these activities, and they investigate when appropriate.

Sgt. Williams added that they have very little interaction with insurance companies with most communication occurring directly through reporting parties rather than insurance companies.

V. Chair Apolinario asked about AI-related crime preparation and whether this was emerging as an issue they were addressing.

Sgt. Williams responded that they have recently been dealing with AI-related issues, specifically in online child exploitation cases. He acknowledged this was a developing area they expect to see more of and are preparing for accordingly.

Officer Shull explained that as these AI-related crimes emerge, they are working to develop investigation techniques to trace these activities back to perpetrators. However, even after successful tracing, they face questions about whether crimes involving real people's faces on imaginary bodies constitute actual crimes. This requires involving prosecutor offices and legal experts to determine what constitutes criminal activity, what evidence is needed, and what must be proven. She expects legislation will be needed to clarify these emerging technology crimes, similar to challenges they face with cryptocurrency cases, where prosecutors are still learning how to handle these new types of criminal activity.

CP Maynard asked how they characterize AI-related activities as crimes and trace accountability to individuals.

Sgt. Williams explained that AI crimes in their context typically involve taking someone's actual face and placing it on AI-generated bodies or in AI-generated situations. Tracing methods depend on case specifics and how information reaches them initially, usually involving collecting electronic records and executing search warrants on devices if they can determine their locations.

Sgt. Williams noted that AI-related crimes have already been characterized as federal crimes, while they are currently working through local level characterizations with Union County and additional follow-up planned through Franklin and Delaware counties.

CP Powell asked about success metrics, noting that based on news reports and their presentations, most criminals seem to be caught quickly. He inquired about tracking metrics from report time to case closure and whether longer timeframes indicate resource strain.

DC Lattanzi confirmed that their detective lieutenant triages cases and tracks case progression through regular detective meetings. However, from an agency standpoint, they do not track specific timeframes from offense to resolution, explaining this is intentionally avoided to maintain focus on collecting evidence and establishing probable cause professionally. They prioritize building cases that prosecutors and juries can rely on for convictions rather than emphasizing quick resolutions over thorough investigations.

He acknowledged that violent crime cases receive emphasis for quicker resolution, particularly when they have sufficient evidence to charge individuals and remove them from the street due to the potential danger to the community. In such cases, they will arrest suspects and continue investigations afterward to complete case preparation for grand jury proceedings and court.

Officer Shull provided additional context on measuring success, noting that while quick turnarounds on violent crimes are celebrated, detective work continues long after arrests. She cited their 2018 homicide case involving a doctor victim where it took nine months to charge the suspect, who turned out to be his wife. While they may have had early suspicions, serious crimes require serious investigation approaches with sufficient evidence for successful prosecution.

Officer Shull detailed the extensive investigation involving over 70 interviews, financial background checks, and consideration of multiple suspects. The case proceeded from the July 2018 incident to October 2022 conviction, with appeals and new trial attempts continuing through February of the current year, all of which were unsuccessful due to their thorough investigation documentation. She emphasized that apparent delays in charging suspects often reflect the patience required to build solid cases rather than investigative inadequacy.

Chief Paez asked the detectives to discuss complex investigations, which required assistance from state or federal partners, including technical aspects and resource sharing for large crimes.

Sgt. Williams provided an example from a recent attempted murder case involving a shooting at Britton Woods Apartments, in which he encountered difficulties downloading a suspect's phone information, despite having a search warrant. Through FBI task force connections, he shared the phone with the FBI, whose additional software access allowed them to extract crucial messages that were unavailable through the department's equipment.

Sgt. Williams also described their relationship with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) through the state, which provides excellent resources for homicide investigations. When homicides occur, they call the BCI to send crime technicians for scene processing while their detectives conduct the investigation. This represents another valuable state resource they utilize for their most serious cases.

CP Maynard expressed surprise at the extent of criminal activity in Dublin revealed during the presentation and asked for messages the committee members could share with neighbors about awareness and alertness regarding community criminal activity.

Chief Paez responded by referencing their mission of protection, service, public safety, and partnership, emphasizing their first goal of critical incident preparedness and effectiveness in responding to major crimes. While these incidents are not regular occurrences, crime can happen in any community, so their commitment involves being prepared for critical incidents when situations deteriorate and require their response to restore order and guide the community through difficult and tragic events.

He emphasized that residents have a well-prepared, well-trained, well-resourced, and equipped department connected to state, county, and federal resources when additional assistance is needed for criminal investigations or offenses. While crimes do occur, they happen infrequently, as reflected in the monthly City Manager Report data showing very low Part 1 violent crime numbers. Dublin remains a very safe community, but their recognition that incidents can occur drives their preparation and team readiness to handle situations with confidence, allowing the community to know that incidents have been addressed and safety has been restored.

STAFF COMMENTS

- **Town Hall on Mental Health 2026 - Deputy Police Chief Tabernik**

DC Tabernik stated they had left the Mental Health Town Hall as a placeholder for the committee. At the last committee meeting there was inquiry regarding how committee members could help amplify the message. As staff further develops details and logistics for the event, he encouraged committee members to amplify the message within their circles.

DC Tabernik announced that the Mental Health Town Hall will be held on Thursday, May 7th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Dublin Community Rec Center. He outlined three general goals for the event: normalizing conversations about mental health as vitally important for community dialogue; providing resources to community members through a vendor fair at the event's conclusion; and creating a call to action where community members pledge to talk more openly about mental health.

He explained that much of the planning emerged from conversations between himself, Susan Ortega, and Mollie Steiner, who had previously presented on the Dublin Wellness Alliance to this committee. He emphasized that police officers are not independently organizing the event; they are working with mental health and community partners to advance the community conversation.

The presentations will include an impact speaker, still to be determined, who will be passionate about mental health and able to relate to people effectively. Shannon Black-Dotson from Syntero, the Department's public safety services liaison, will be present.

DC Tabernik noted that Sgt. Kovacs, who previously presented to the committee on their advanced Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), will also be participating. He commended Sgt. Kovacs for his leadership in establishing the advanced CIT team, who plans to cover this in his presentation so community members can be aware of the police department's mental health resources.

They will discuss their Safe Space Initiative, and Mollie Steiner will provide a Dublin Wellness Alliance overview, specifically discussing two components: parent-driven youth education starting in the 2026-2027 school year and a community wellness navigator that should be operational by the town hall date, who will provide additional wellness resources to community members needing assistance beyond just mental health.

The town hall event will include a panel discussion with police representation, Syntero representation, Ms. Steiner, and Dublin City Schools personnel including guidance counselors who are Syntero employees. The question and answer session emphasis will allow community members to ask questions before engaging with wellness resources and vendors at the event.

Following the Q&A session, they will transition directly into a vendor fair with several dozen different mental health and resource providers available to community members.

DC Tabernik stated that a save-the-date message covering the basic information he had shared has been shared with the community, and they plan to make progressive messaging releases as they approach May 7th.

V. Chair Apolinario introduced Joy Kouns-Lewis from the Asian American Commerce Group, whom he had contacted about two weeks prior regarding involvement in the Town Hall event to create awareness within the Asian American Commerce Group.

Ms. Kouns-Lewis introduced herself as President and CEO of the Asian American Commerce Group and a City of Dublin resident. She explained their organization has approximately 3,000 members in their database, with about 20 percent paid members representing their core membership.

Their mission involves empowering and advocating for Asian American business owners by fostering collaboration, education, and community engagement while embracing diversity and inclusivity to drive economic growth and cultural exchange among all communities. She would appreciate being included in the mental health awareness initiative planned for May 7th.

Ms. Kouns-Lewis provided statistics indicating Dublin has the highest Asian American population in Ohio, with close to 10,000 residents, and her community has about 1,200 residents. She noted that approximately 17 percent of Dublin's Asian American population has documented mental illness, making this subject very important and worthy of the City's attention through awareness forums.

She commended the City of Dublin for addressing mental health and creating awareness forums as part of their diversity and inclusion efforts through the police department. For participation, she explained they have an Asian American Ohio Health Coalition she will collaborate with to promote the event. Many officers of the Ohio Asian American Coalition are members of their organization, including Council Member Dr. Greg Lam, who is very active in the Ohio Asian American Coalition.

Ms. Kouns-Lewis outlined their promotional assistance plans, including website posting and promotion at their upcoming Thursday event. She will mention the town hall and ensure their website features the event, with invitations sent to members who are Dublin residents. She inquired about exhibitor tables, expressing interest in having the Asian American Health Coalition participate with a table to attract and educate the Asian American community in Dublin. She emphasized the town hall's importance given that Ohio ranks number 12 in mental illness prevalence, with about 17 percent of their 10,000 Asian American Ohio residents having documented mental illness, with depression and suicide being top issues. Ms. Kouns-Lewis stated that bringing this information forward would help educate community members about available Ohio and Dublin resources.

DC Tabernik thanked her for attending and offering partnership and expressed interest in having her organization participate with a table and presence at the event.

- **Update on Crime Trends and Police Activity - Police Chief Justin Paez**

Chief Paez provided an update on crime trends through the beginning of March 2026, noting a downward trend in very small numbers that contextualizes his earlier comments about Part 1 violent crimes. In the first two months of 2026, they had only three reports of incidents involving Part 1 violent crimes, half the number from the same period in 2025 when they had six incidents.

They have seen reductions in theft reports and theft from vehicle reports compared to the same time the previous year. However, they observed a slight uptick in motor vehicle theft or attempted theft reports, with ten incidents in the first two months compared to seven the previous year, representing an increase of three reports that they are tracking and monitoring.

For burglaries and breaking and entering offenses, they had only two breaking and entering reports in the first two months. Burglary reports totaled five, compared to two during the same period the previous year, though they had four during the same timeframe two years prior. Chief Paez characterized these as relatively low numbers while acknowledging the importance of paying attention to these statistics to implement appropriate strategies and tactics for reduction and ensure diligent pursuit of accountability for perpetrators.

He shared information about a trend they were tracking at the year's beginning as a cautionary measure due to activity at hotels and surface lots involving vehicle break-ins, where theft might not be occurring but window damage was evident. They believe firearms were being targeted, and he referenced previous discussions about determining targeting based on damage without apparent theft.

Chief Paez reported successful resolution of this trend through excellent work by their teams working with the Columbus PD. They executed a search warrant and arrested two juveniles while continuing to investigate others connected to associated incidents. They recovered six firearms, and since juveniles cannot legally possess firearms, the presumption was these were stolen in earlier incidents.

This work validated their observations about these offenses, not just in Dublin but also in Columbus and other suburbs, where multiple individuals quickly break windows, rifle through cars, and sometimes bypass visible property, indicating they are seeking something specific. Firearms are particularly concerning when they go missing, and they have had several incidents this year where firearms were taken from vehicles in Dublin.

Chief Paez emphasized this as a prevention point for every conversation, urging that anyone choosing to carry firearms should do so judiciously and consider proper security measures when traveling and unable to bring firearms into locations, ensuring they do not go missing from vehicles.

From a general trends perspective, Chief Paez reported a very good start to the year despite some incidents occurring. At their monthly supervisory staff meeting that day, he noted the extraordinary attention to detail regarding community occurrences and responsiveness, planning, and coordination. All teams from patrol to detectives, community impact unit, community education unit, and the communication center are connected, which result in minimal gaps in awareness or knowledge. This integration occurs through monthly meetings discussing all occurrences, how they address them, and how they can stay ahead of potential seasonal trends, based on past experience.

He concluded by noting there has been really good progress to date in 2026 and their continued commitment is ensuring Dublin remains safe.

V. Chair Apolinario asked if there were recommendations for firearm storage location and methods in situations where someone must leave a firearm in their vehicle.

Chief Paez responded that his default recommendation would be to not leave firearms in vehicles. He would suggest people leave them secured at home when anticipating separation from the weapon. While there are methods to secure firearms in vehicles, these would need to be immobile rather than just locked cases that can be accessed with time and resources. Unless firearms can be anchored to the vehicle, there is no reliable way to absolutely ensure security as desired.

He noted that given their trend of entire vehicle thefts over recent years, even firearms bolted to vehicle frames could eventually be accessed with sufficient time and attention by determined individuals. Since firearms in wrong hands pose dangers to everyone, he recommended leaving firearms in home safes when not carried personally if there are any security questions.

- **Amend 2026 Meeting Calendar – Jeffrey Jiang**

Management Analyst Jeffrey Jiang noted a scheduling conflict for June's meeting currently scheduled for Thursday, June 18th. He proposed rescheduling it to Wednesday, June 17th.

After discussion about potential conflicts and alternative dates, committee members indicated various availability issues, leading Mr. Jiang to suggest looking for other dates in June rather than making a change at this meeting.

Mr. Jiang also announced that the next meeting would include updating the committee members' photo. The photo would be taken at the next meeting's beginning.

CP Barnes requested that meeting dates for the remainder of the year be included at the end of all meeting summaries to help with calendar management and avoid conflicts, noting he currently shows both June 11th and June 18th on his calendar for advisory meetings. He explained this would help him provide 30-day advance notice for other meeting changes.

Mr. Jiang agreed to include meeting dates at the end of meeting agendas and send the confirmed adopted meeting list for the rest of the year to help clarify schedules.

CP Barnes also asked whether major events like Saint Patrick's Day were considered when scheduling meetings to avoid conflicts with staff being needed for street support and community events.

Chief Paez appreciated the mindfulness about resource allocation but confirmed they have sufficient resources to manage both responsibilities. If scheduling conflicts ever became issues, they would work with Mr. Jiang and the Council Clerk's office to provide necessary notification for meeting cancellations.

ROUNDTABLE

V. Chair Apolinario opened the roundtable discussion by noting that spring begins on March 21. He acknowledged the busy month including Saint Patrick's Day, International Women's Day, and the Asian Indian Festival occurring at month's end.

CP Barnes commended the Chief, staff, and team, noting he attended his first State of the City meeting where the police department was well represented and performed excellently. He expressed pride in their representation at public events and thanked them for their great work.

V. Chair Apolinario noted excellent videos of Chief Paez on LinkedIn from that event.

CP Maynard noted that Chief Paez had not mentioned the CALEA reaccreditation in his comments.

Chief Paez acknowledged the prompt and explained that on the previous Saturday, he and Professional Standards Manager Whitney Abker attended a hearing in Tucson, Arizona before CALEA commissioners for their law enforcement and communications reaccreditation. The panel of three commissioners reviewed reports from the past four years from assessors who examined their files to ensure they have policies for all required standards.

For law enforcement, they must have policies for 461 standards, while communications requires an additional 208 standards. CALEA looks not just at policy existence but proof of policy compliance, representing the gold standard in public safety, policing, and communications that reflects industry best practices.

Ms. Abker works throughout the year and for several years to ensure all policies are in place and that they can demonstrate policy adherence. The commissioners reviewed reports and asked questions, with Chief Paez noting that as a tenured agency accredited for many years, their commitment extends beyond certification to pushing themselves toward the best possible standards and agency performance.

The commissioners asked them to highlight items noted by assessors in their reports. They discussed the school resource officer program, the "drone as first responder" (DFR) program technology, peer support ensuring officers and communications technicians have necessary job-related support, and importantly, the Chief's Advisory Committee.

When asked about the committee, Chief Paez explained their policy discussions and highlighted members committed, attentive, and curious enough to ask about CALEA standards and best practice relationships. He emphasized that their conversations extend beyond CALEA standards to ensuring community expectations and diverse community engagement regarding how their resources and services reflect the Dublin Police Department's commitment to providing protection, service, and public safety in partnership with the community.

Chief Paez expressed gratitude for the opportunity to highlight the committee's work, partnership, and community connection in delivering public safety as Dublin Police Department. They successfully achieved their eleventh law enforcement accreditation and third communications accreditation. He noted that only a couple of agencies at the conference had been accredited more times than Dublin Police Department, at twelve cycles, expressing appreciation for previous leaders who embraced these practices and their continuation of delivering the best policing standards meaningfully for their community daily.

V. Chair Apolinario confirmed this was a voluntary participation situation, which Chief Paez confirmed, noting they participate voluntarily but with great eagerness.

CP O'Ryan asked about Central Ohio regional accreditation and whether Columbus is accredited.

Chief Paez confirmed Columbus is accredited, with two accreditation managers attending the conference to stay current on new practices and standards. Other accredited agencies include Upper Arlington and Westerville, though he could not recall others immediately. Not every agency participates in accreditation, and it represents a large commitment.

There are different accreditation tiers, with entry-level law enforcement accreditation involving approximately 180 standards covering foundational principles for policy development. Their advanced accreditation requires 461 standards plus 208 for communications. He clarified there are no additional tiers beyond their current advanced level.

For Dublin, they also maintain state accreditation, adding communications, law enforcement, and state accreditation requirements. This means Ms. Abker manages three accreditations with an additional 30 state-level standards requiring policy support and compliance demonstration.

V. Chair Apolinario asked about the academy's duration, which Chief Paez confirmed is approximately seven months for the Columbus academy; the Westerville academy varies slightly and one recruit is attending the Delaware academy.

CP Powell requested a future follow-up on mental health and wellness enhancements for the Dublin PD personnel, which was mentioned at the January meeting.

Chief Paez confirmed they could provide a check-in on peer support and wellness initiatives, looking to D. Chief Tabernik to determine appropriate personnel for a fuller conversation about the topic.

D. Chief Tabernik confirmed they would provide this update.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.


Vice Chair, Chief's Advisory Committee


Assistant Clerk of Council