



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 13, 2026

The Thursday, August 13, 2026 Chief's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Hollie at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Ron Barnes, Luke Powell, Alex O'Ryan, Kimberly Hollie, Chitra Goyal

Committee Member Absent: Lisa Baer

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief Tabernik, Sergeant Kovacs, Lieutenant Stoll, Ms. Gray, Mr. Jiang

Others: Peggy Kilty, resident; Zhen Xing and Emmet Apolinario former CAC members

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Hollie asked for additions or corrections to the 07-08-2026 minutes of the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting. There were none.

CP Barnes moved, CP Powell seconded approval of the minutes.

Vote: CP O'Ryan, yes; Chair Hollie, yes; CP Barnes, yes; CP Powell, yes; CP Goyal, yes.
[Motion carried 5-0.]

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Peggy Kilty, 7568 Ashland Court, Dublin share three areas of concern related to how the Dublin Police Department supports residents with disabilities and ensures accountability in school-based investigations.

Disability Registry. Ms. Kilty inquired whether the disability registry previously discussed by the Committee had been implemented. She requested clarity on whether information entered into the registry is shared with law enforcement partners at the city, county, state, or federal level, and whether families registering children with disabilities are informed of any such data-sharing arrangements. She emphasized that transparency and informed consent are essential when sensitive health data, particularly that of children, is involved.

Blue Envelope Program. Ms. Kilty noted that her neurodivergent daughter is learning to drive and expressed concern that routine traffic stops can be overwhelming for individuals with invisible disabilities. She asked whether the Dublin Police Department participates in the Blue Envelope

Program, a statewide initiative designed to help drivers with disabilities communicate their needs during traffic stops, and whether the department has plans to adopt it.

SRO Documentation in School Investigations. Ms. Kilty described a situation in which her daughter, a student with disabilities, was the subject of a false allegation of assault at school. She stated that neither the school administration nor the School Resource Officer documented the investigation in any form, and that the eventual resolution was communicated informally by telephone. She had reviewed the Community Education Unit officer manual and found no written requirement for documentation in the context of school-based investigations. Ms. Kilty asked the committee and the department to review whether existing policy adequately requires documentation when investigations involving potential criminal conduct occur in schools. She further referenced several prior incidents involving her children in the school context and expressed concern about a pattern of inadequate recordkeeping. She also shared a deeply troubling incident in which her daughter was subjected to violent and degrading language by peers, urging the community to recognize that violent rhetoric constitutes a form of harm.

Chief Paez acknowledged Ms. Kilty's comments and committed to following up with her directly and reporting back to the committee on all three matters.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Reflection & Recommendations from Outgoing CAC Members**

Chief Paez invited former committee members Emmet Apolinario and Zhen Xing to offer remarks to the Committee in recognition of their service. Chief Paez acknowledged that the committee had diligently reminded him over the course of several meetings that a proper recognition had not yet taken place for these two outgoing members.

Mr. Apolinario expressed gratitude to the committee and spoke to the dedication he had observed in its members and officers over the years. He noted that his brother, who works in law enforcement in Virginia, has often heard Mr. Apolinario speak admiringly of what Dublin has built, to which his brother has responded with envy. Mr. Apolinario thanked the Committee for the opportunity to return and say a proper farewell.

Ms. Xing reflected on his reasons for originally joining the committee, noting that she had sought to become involved in an official capacity following the pandemic, during which she observed rising hostility toward Chinese Americans and a deteriorating relationship between the United States and China at the geopolitical level. She expressed that, as an individual, she did not feel she had the power to alter the course of history, but she joined the Committee to understand how the police department functions and how community members can contribute. Ms. Xing shared that her primary activity on the committee had been asking questions and remaining open-minded, and that through this process she learned a great deal. She offered a final reflection that regardless of how the world changes, people are united by their care for family and their desire to leave a better future for their children, and she expressed hope that the community would continue to grow in understanding and mutual respect. Ms. Xing indicated she hoped to contribute to the community in different capacities in the future.

Chair Hollie expressed appreciation for both outgoing members, noting the value of their earnest questions and perspectives. Chief Paez added remarks commending Mr. Apolinario for his service as vice chair and recognizing Ms. Xing for her contributions to committee materials and an article

published to raise awareness of the committee's work. Chief Paez presented each outgoing member with a certificate of appreciation and a challenge coin. He extended an open invitation to both individuals to attend committee meetings at any time, noting that their perspectives remained valued.

- **Communications & Marketing Support for the Police Department**

Senior Public Information Officer Robyn Gray presented an overview of her role and her partnership with the Dublin Police Department. Ms. Gray noted that she joined the City of Dublin in September 2025 and holds the title of Senior Public Information Officer, representing several city divisions including Dublin Police, NREC, Court Services, the Engineering Department, Transportation and Mobility, Utilities, and Outreach And Engagement. She also serves as the city liaison to Washington Township Fire Department and Dublin City Schools, and contributes as a writer for Dublin Life magazine.

Ms. Gray described her professional background, noting that she spent twenty-one years in television news media, including thirteen years at NBC 4, before transitioning to city government. She spoke to the value she places on storytelling, transparency, and truth, and noted that these principles are equally important within government communications as they are in journalism.

In describing her goals for police communications, Ms. Gray emphasized community policing as a central focus, highlighting opportunities for residents to interact with officers through events such as Fill a Cruiser, National Night Out, and the Cool Treats with Dublin Police initiative. She also described her role in media relations, including coordinating interviews, press releases, and news coverage, and serving as the liaison between the department and local media. Ms. Gray noted that she encountered several significant incidents early in her tenure, including two missing persons cases, a double arson investigation, and the discovery of human remains on Riverside Drive. She described the experience of navigating those situations from the communications side as instructive, given her prior experience as a member of the media seeking information.

Ms. Gray identified several key projects she has worked on in collaboration with the police department, including a promotional video for the Public Safety U initiative, which she described as a joint effort among police, fire, and dispatch that is among the first of its kind in the country. She also discussed the Ride Smart. Ride Safe campaign, which she characterized as the initiative that has required the most sustained attention since her arrival.

Committee member CP Barnes commended Ms. Gray and her team for the quality and consistency of their communications work across platforms, and inquired about the city website outage that had occurred that day. Ms. Gray confirmed that the outage was due to a server failure and clarified that it did not impact police operational capability. Chief Paez elaborated that a fire at the facility housing the city's server had caused the outage, and that the digital and brand manager was working to restore service that evening. The Chair noted that the department's social media presence had been very consistent and confirmed that Ms. Gray is responsible for those platforms.

Chief Paez thanked Ms. Gray for her presentation, noting that she had demonstrated an exceptional ability to balance public transparency with the operational and investigative needs of the department. He described her expertise in managing the disclosure of sensitive information during ongoing matters as a valuable and ongoing contribution to the department's communications posture.

- **Ride Smart. Ride Safe**

Deputy Chief Nick Tabernik presented an update on the Ride Smart. Ride Safe. initiative, with Sergeant Kovacs also available to contribute. Deputy Chief Tabernik provided background on the development of the program, explaining that community feedback about micromobility devices had grown substantially and that, over approximately one year, the department worked with Communications and Marketing, the Transportation and Mobility Department, and the City's legal team to categorize various devices and clarify what is and is not lawful.

City Council passed an ordinance on April 10th clarifying the rules applicable to micromobility devices. Following passage, the department adopted a deliberate educational posture for approximately the first 90 days rather than immediately pursuing enforcement. Deputy Chief Tabernik described a range of educational efforts led by Sergeant Kovacs, the bike unit, and School Resource Officers, including social media videos, the Cool Treats with Dublin Police event, a Link Ahead podcast, and educational patrols. School Resource Officers conducted 25 educational patrols, and the bike unit conducted 16 bike patrols during which warnings were issued to riders on non-compliant devices. A partnership with Johnson's Ice Cream, known as Cool Choices, Cool Rewards, offered a free scoop of ice cream to youth observed wearing helmets.

Deputy Chief Tabernik noted that after approximately 100 days, community complaints remain but have not uniformly involved actual violations. To respond proportionately, he issued guidance to patrol supervisors identifying circumstances under which enforcement, rather than further education, would be appropriate. These circumstances include prior warnings that have not changed behavior, involvement in a crash, flight from officers, or other confirmed public safety risks. The ordinance also includes a parental responsibility provision, and a small number of tickets have been issued to parents who were aware their child was operating a non-compliant device.

Looking ahead, the department intends to distribute an educational video produced with the assistance of Ms. Gray as schools return to session. Lieutenant Stoll also proposed that SROs make direct contact with students and parents when a non-compliant device is observed at a school, using a non-punitive, problem-solving approach.

CP O'Ryan offered anecdotal observations that the situation had improved noticeably since spring and that helmet use appeared to have increased substantially. He noted that the issue is widespread across many jurisdictions and commended the department's progress within a compressed timeframe.

CP Powell raised the question of how elderly residents who may not use social media are being reached, noting that this demographic tends to be among the most concerned about micromobility issues. Deputy Chief Tabernik noted that HOA meetings and other in-person opportunities have been used to extend outreach beyond digital channels. Ms. Gray noted that informational materials had been distributed through both Dublin City Schools and Hilliard School District newsletters, and that the upcoming school year will include video presentations at school assemblies for students in grades four through eight.

CP Powell also raised the increasing presence of golf carts in the community. Deputy Chief Tabernik clarified that a golf cart is lawful on city streets if it is operated by a licensed driver, is registered with the State of Ohio, has been inspected and certified by the county sheriff, and is equipped with a windshield, brake lights, headlights, wipers, and turn signals. Ms. Gray noted that updated printed materials addressing golf carts are currently in development.

- **School Safety**

Deputy Chief Tabernik introduced Lieutenant Jake Stoll to provide an overview of the School Resource Officer program and an upcoming school safety drill.

Lieutenant Stoll described the structure of the SRO program, noting that Dublin Police Department assigns one SRO to each of the city's three high schools and one to each of its four middle schools. He explained that Dublin City Schools spans 20 buildings across four jurisdictions, involving Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, the City of Columbus, and Dublin Police, each contributing to school safety coverage. Middle school SROs also cover between five and six elementary schools each, visiting at least twice per week and responding to any issues that arise. Jurisdictional lines are treated pragmatically, with officers responding first and then involving the appropriate jurisdiction as needed.

Lieutenant Stoll expressed confidence in the strength of the SRO program and its partnership with the school district, describing it as a collaborative relationship built on open communication and proactive awareness of emerging trends. He noted that SROs serve on a five-year rotation and that community members, including committee members, have been invited to participate in the selection process.

Regarding the upcoming school safety drill, Lieutenant Stoll explained that school safety exercises in Ohio are governed by the Ohio School Safety Council and follow a cycle of discussion-based, tabletop, and full-scale exercises. This year's full-scale drill, scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th, will focus on student reunification. The scenario involves a simulated incident causing displacement of students, transportation to an alternate site, and a structured process of accounting for all students and releasing them to verified guardians. Staff members will role-play as students, teachers, and parents. The SRO's role in the drill includes assisting with identity verification using law enforcement databases and applying de-escalation techniques in simulated interactions with distressed parents.

Deputy Chief Tabernik commended Lieutenant Stoll for the extensive coordination required to organize the drill, noting that numerous planning meetings with school administrators had taken place. Lieutenant Stoll added that the drill was intentionally scoped to focus exclusively on reunification in order to produce meaningful, actionable findings rather than attempting to test multiple systems simultaneously.

Chair Hollie asked about safeguards to prevent an unauthorized person from claiming a student during reunification. Lieutenant Stoll described a layered verification process, including school-maintained emergency contact cards, investigative techniques, access to law enforcement databases, and the authority to withhold release if there is any doubt, with partnerships in place to ensure a safe placement for the student in that event.

CP Barnes inquired about mechanisms for tracking student presence in buildings. Lieutenant Stoll acknowledged that the current environment is more complex than in previous generations, with students moving between enrichment programs and off-site educational opportunities throughout the day, but confirmed that the district maintains accountability systems and that SROs work closely with school staff to manage those challenges.

CP Goyal asked whether any new safety measures were being introduced for the coming school year. Lieutenant Stoll noted that training for SROs occurs over the summer to minimize disruption

during the school year, and that camera infrastructure is an ongoing area of improvement, with the school district working toward a unified platform across all buildings.

CP Barnes asked whether the department has tools for reminding drivers to reduce speed in school zones as the new school year begins. Lieutenant Stoll confirmed that both SROs and traffic enforcement officers are deployed near school zones at the start of the year, beginning with an educational approach and escalating to enforcement, and that outreach through social media and other channels supplements that effort.

STAFF COMMENTS

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

Chief Paez opened his remarks by noting the successful conclusion of the Dublin Irish Festival, expressing gratitude to the city teams involved in the event and reporting that no serious incidents had occurred. He noted that there had been only two very minor interactions over the course of the festival weekend, both involving individuals who had consumed alcohol and who were safely reunited with people able to assist them.

Chief Paez then provided a summary of current crime trends, noting an upward trajectory in overall theft reports compared to the same point in the prior year, with particular increases observed in three categories: thefts from vehicles, burglaries, and breaking and entering offenses.

With respect to thefts from vehicles, Chief Paez reported sixty-nine reports to date in the current year, compared to fifty-six reports at the same point in 2025. He noted that recent activity appeared to be concentrated more in residential neighborhoods than in commercial parking areas, which represented a shift from prior patterns. He advised residents that removing valuables from vehicles remains the most effective preventive measure.

On the subject of burglaries and breaking and entering offenses, Chief Paez explained that a meaningful portion of the increase, approximately six to eight reports, was attributable to incidents at Asherton Apartments following a significant fire that displaced residents and left the building temporarily vacant and unoccupied. He noted that those incidents remain under investigation and indicated that he intended to engage with the fire department to consider what protocols might be appropriate when a structure is left vacant following a fire for an extended period of time.

Chief Paez reported that Part 1 violent crimes had remained relatively stable over the past three years, with twenty incidents reported at the same point in 2024, twenty-one in 2025, and twenty-two in 2026, and noted that even consistent numbers in this category warrant continued attention to trends among individuals involved.

Regarding traffic safety, Chief Paez reported a downward trend in total traffic crashes for the year. However, he noted that OVI-related crashes are trending slightly upward, with sixteen reports to date compared to eleven at the same point in the prior year. He expressed confidence that the department's enforcement activity, which includes OVI arrests and total traffic stops well ahead of the pace of prior years, reflects the right focus on the right behaviors. He also reported a significant downward trend in motor vehicle thefts and attempted thefts, with twenty-six reports in the current year compared to forty-six at the same point in 2025.

CP Powell inquired whether the increase in theft from vehicles was concentrated in a particular area of the City. Chief Paez indicated, based on conversations with the department's law

enforcement planner, that the activity had been spread across the community rather than localized, but was notably occurring in residential neighborhoods, which was consistent with patterns seen in years prior to more recent trends toward commercial areas.

CP Goyal asked whether the department maintains records of traffic citations in addition to crash reports. Chief Paez confirmed that all traffic enforcement activity is tracked and noted that the department had issued 1,149 speeding citations through the beginning of August of the current year, with the total citation count also including other violations and citations issued in connection with crashes.

ROUNDTABLE

Chair Hollie opened the roundtable and asked when it would be appropriate to revisit the concerns raised by Ms. Kilty earlier in the evening.

Chief Paez offered preliminary responses to the three concerns Ms. Kilty had presented.

On the matter of the disability registry, Deputy Chief Tabernik confirmed that the Reunify Dublin initiative, which the committee had discussed in prior meetings, remains in progress. He acknowledged that the precise barrier Ms. Kilty had identified, ensuring that sensitive information collected through the registry cannot become publicly available, is the same barrier the department has been working to resolve with its legal team. He confirmed that the matter is still being reviewed and that no registry has yet been implemented.

On the Blue Envelope program, Chief Paez confirmed that the program is recognized statewide and is supported in part by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. He noted that the envelopes can be obtained at certain police departments and that Dublin officers are trained to recognize and respond appropriately when a driver presents this document during a stop. He clarified that the absence of the Blue Envelope program as a formally offered service at the Dublin Police Department does not mean officers are unaware of or unprepared to accommodate the program; rather, they are trained to understand what the envelope signifies and to adjust their approach accordingly.

On the matter of documentation standards for school-based investigations, Chief Paez acknowledged that the Community Education Unit Officer Manual does contain some guidance on documentation, specifically that an incident report or offense report should be produced when the elements of a criminal offense are established. He noted, however, that the document does not provide highly prescriptive guidance, and that the judgment of the school resource officer and the school administration plays a significant role in determining how an incident is characterized and handled. Chief Paez described the inherent tension in this area as the balance between introducing young people to the juvenile justice system through formal documentation and investigation, versus allowing incidents that may be more appropriately characterized as school disciplinary matters to be handled at the school level. He committed to reviewing the specific circumstances of the incidents Ms. Kilty described, reviewing the relevant provisions of the agreement between the department and the school district, and following up directly with Ms. Kilty. He also noted that, with a change in school district leadership underway, the upcoming review of the school resource officer agreement with the new superintendent would be an appropriate occasion to revisit and potentially strengthen the documentation provisions in the program's guiding documents.

CP Powell acknowledged the emotional weight of Ms. Kilty's final comments regarding violent and degrading language directed at her daughter, and asked that this concern be noted and addressed

sensitively in the follow-up with Ms. Kilty. He also asked what information is made available to parents regarding the role and authority of school resource officers. Lieutenant Stoll indicated that information about the school resource officer program is available on the city's website, that school resource officers make themselves available at back-to-school events, and that the school resource officer manual is a public document submitted to City Council for approval. He acknowledged that the manual's legal language may not be readily accessible to most readers and noted that this observation underscored the importance of direct officer-to-community communication. Deputy Chief Tabernik added that a significant portion of parent education occurs at the incident level, when school resource officers work with parents and students to explain how a given situation is being handled and why.

CP O'Ryan raised a question regarding the recent national attention on automated license plate reader cameras, specifically Flock cameras, and whether the department had received an increased volume of inquiries in light of recent news coverage involving other Ohio jurisdictions. Deputy Chief Tabernik confirmed that the department had received a few general inquiries regarding its ALPR policy. He noted, however, that the department had been proactive in reviewing both its policy and its practices before any external pressure prompted such a review. He described Sergeant Gatterdam's work in establishing guardrails and safeguards to prevent the misuse of Flock camera data, and noted that regular auditing of camera use is a central component of the department's compliance posture. Deputy Chief Tabernik indicated that the command staff had discussed this matter extensively at a recent standing meeting and that significant safeguards were in place to prevent the issues experienced by other departments.

Chief Paez advised the committee that the September meeting is being planned as a joint meeting of the advisory committee's collective, and that members should expect communication regarding the agenda and timing from the management team. He noted that the next regular Chief's Advisory Committee meeting would therefore be in October.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.



Chair, Chief's Advisory Committee



Deputy Clerk of Council

Dublin Police Department - Contact Information 614-410-4800

Chief Justin Páez
jPáez@dublin.oh.us

D. Chief Nick Tabernik
ntabernik@dublin.oh.us