



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

The Tuesday, October 9, 2025 Chief's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Hollie at 5:36 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Emmet Apolinario (Vice Chair), Lisa Baer, Guarav Goel, Kimberly Hollie (Chair), Dwayne Maynard, Zhen Xing, Chitra Goyal, Luke Powell

Committee Members Absent: Alex O'Ryan, Ron Barnes

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief (DC) Nick Tabernik, Lieutenant Alex Carlson, Investigator David Jaeger, Jeff Jiang, Mara Hunter

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Hollie asked for additions or corrections to the October 9, 2025 Chief's Advisory Committee minutes.

Vice Chair Apolinario pointed out that a missing name in paragraph 2 of page 2 under New Business needs to be clarified.

Chief Paez stated that based on the context and Deputy Chief Tabernik's involvement in the referenced program, he believed the intended reference was to DC Tabernik. Chair Hollie confirmed the clarification with DC Tabernik.

Community Partner (CP) Maynard moved to approve the October 9, 2025 minutes as amended, seconded by CP Baer.

Vote: CP Baer, yes; Vice Chair Apolinario, yes; CP Goel, yes; CP Maynard, yes; CP Xing, yes; CP Goyal, yes; CP Powell, yes; Chair Hollie, yes.

[Motion carried 8-0.]

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Human Trafficking Awareness and Enforcement**

Chief Paez introduced the presentation topic, reminding the committee that combating human trafficking via education awareness and enforcement was one of their goals established at the beginning of the year. He characterized human trafficking as "one of the more insidious offenses that are difficult to talk about as a community" but emphasized it was something the Police Department (PD) had been actively addressing.

Chief Paez introduced Lieutenant Alex Carlson and Investigator Dave Jaeger from the Community Impact Unit (CIU), noting they work with a team specializing in addressing human trafficking issues in Dublin and Central Ohio. He noted that printed materials about the CIU program were distributed to the individual committee members.

Lieutenant Carlson explained that the CIU's mission is to support and supplement patrol and detective sections, responding to crime trends and community concerns. He emphasized that human trafficking is a significant community concern, describing it as a problem that affects all communities, including Dublin. He noted the unit works yearly with other Central Ohio agencies including Hilliard, Grove City, and Columbus police departments on directed operations, with ongoing efforts throughout the year.

Presentation

Investigator Jaeger displayed a photo of the original CIU team and credited Chief Paez for supporting the development and initiation of the CIU unit.

Investigator Jaeger shared the genesis of Dublin's human trafficking efforts, which began when he and his partner were searching for a burglary suspect at a local hotel. They noticed a suspicious vehicle parked alone at the back of the hotel — a red flag in police work. After running the license plate, they received an alert to contact a Homeland Security agent associated with the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. The Special Agent requested they maintain surveillance on the vehicle until apprehension could occur. This led to the arrest of a father-son team that had been trafficking girls and women between Lexington, KY and Cleveland, OH for a couple of years, including at Dublin hotels. He noted that all human trafficking has the element of control.

Investigator Jaeger provided the Attorney General's definition of human trafficking: "the illegal use of vulnerable people to make a profit." He emphasized that in Dublin, they primarily encounter sex trafficking in hotels, noting that hotels near freeways are common locations regardless of the community's affluence. The Dublin CIU initially worked with the task force on conducting stings, eventually becoming educated and able to conduct undercover sting operations on its own.

Legislative Tools and Enforcement

Investigator Jaeger explained two key pieces of legislation that have strengthened their enforcement capabilities:

- ORC 2907.231 - Engaging in Prostitution: Now a first-degree misdemeanor (previously a lower-level offense), providing stronger deterrent for buyers of sex.
- ORC 2907.22 - Promoting Prostitution: Effective since 2020, this fourth-degree felony gives officers "teeth" to charge traffickers who transport or control victims.

Investigator Jaeger detailed their operational strategies, including:

- Undercover sting operations targeting both buyers ("John stings") and identifying victims/traffickers ("reverse stings")
- Partnerships with local hotels for legitimate operation locations
- Surveillance techniques to identify traffickers who often drop off victims and wait nearby
- Coordination with social workers and advocates from organizations like Salvation Army

Real-World Examples

Investigator Jaeger shared several impactful cases:

- **The Mandarin-Speaking Victim:** Officers identified an ad featuring an Asian female at a Red Roof Inn. Using Language Line for translation, they discovered she was from Flushing, New York. Her phone contained instructions in Mandarin directing her work schedule, which beds to use, and how to send money via Western Union. The case was referred to the FBI in New York, revealing a larger trafficking network.
- **Officer McCloskey's Intervention:** A shots-fired call at Red Roof Inn led the team to a domestic situation. Officer Amber McCloskey arrested a female with an out-of-county warrant. During the 40-minute drive to meet the other jurisdiction officer, McCloskey built rapport with the woman, who eventually revealed her "boyfriend" was actually "more like a pimp" who supplied her drugs. This led to connecting with the federal human trafficking task force, resulting in a 20-year federal prison sentence for a violent trafficker who had been under investigation for two years.

Catch Court Program

Investigator Jaeger discussed Franklin County's Catch Court, pioneered by Judge Herbert (retired) and now run by Judge Jody Thomas. This intensive diversionary program specifically serves trafficking victims, recognizing the complex layers of addiction, abuse, and control. Investigator Jaeger shared testimony from program graduates who unanimously credited jail time as the catalyst for their recovery — it forced them through heroin withdrawal and gave them a sober mindset to consider the program.

Demographics and Patterns

When asked about victim demographics, Investigator Jaeger indicated:

- **Race:** Approximately 50/50 Black and White victims, with increasing Hispanic victims (noting recently, there have been more Spanish-language escort ads)
- **Common factors:** Lower income generally, but exceptions exist (including a 4.0 student from an affluent Cincinnati suburb)
- **Gender:** Predominantly female, though male victims are "much larger than we probably would assume"
- **Age:** Wide range, with traffickers often targeting vulnerable youth at malls and food courts
- **Substance abuse:** Universal factor—only one victim in 11 years was not addicted to drugs

Technology and Resources

Lieutenant Carlson and Investigator Jaeger discussed their use of technology:

- Hardware: HD hidden cameras for evidence and officer safety, drones for surveillance, body cameras
- Software: Database analysis, social media investigation, FLOCK camera system for tracking vehicles
- Analyst support: Real-time intelligence gathering during operations

They emphasized the importance of asset forfeiture funds, which allows them to purchase equipment without using taxpayer money.

Community Partnerships and Special Events

When asked about increased activity during major events, such as the Memorial Tournament, July 4 and the Irish Festival, the officers confirmed they monitor online activity more closely during these times. They noted ads from out-of-state (Chicago, Atlanta) increase during international events, similar to OSU games and the Arnold Classic.

Resources for Victims

When asked about support organizations, Investigator Jaeger recommended:

- Catch Court (changing habits through changing actions)
- Southeast Inc. (drug treatment and rehabilitation)
- Salvation Army (social workers and advocates)
- Maryhaven and Netcare (detox and treatment centers)

Committee Questions and Discussion

Chair Hollie asked several questions about victim demographics and what keeps victims in these situations. She shared a personal experience at Kroger where she witnessed a potentially concerning situation but was unsure of her responsibility. Both officers emphasized the importance of calling police when something seems suspicious, even if it turns out to be a domestic disturbance situation.

Vice Chair Apolinario inquired about staffing levels. The officers explained that sting operations are often labor-intensive, requiring 14-20 officers for proper surveillance, takedown teams, undercover work, and paperwork. They emphasized the value of partnerships with other agencies to share resources.

CP Maynard asked about the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, which Investigator Jaeger explained is a clearinghouse with representatives from Columbus Police, Franklin County, BCI, and Homeland Security. Dublin maintains strong relationships with the task force while conducting independent operations.

CP Xing asked whether cases involve organized crime or individual traffickers. Investigator Jaeger confirmed both occur. Sometimes the situation involves larger networks (like the New York case); other times it involves local criminals who have transitioned from drug dealing to trafficking because it is more profitable and less risky.

CP Goel thanked the PD for bringing this often-overlooked topic forward, noting he had shared information from previous presentations with family and friends who "live in a bubble" and do not realize such crimes happen in Dublin.

Chief Paez emphasized that Investigator Jaeger is available to give similar presentations to community groups and businesses. He reiterated the department's commitment to holding accountable those who prey on vulnerable community members while connecting victims with appropriate resources.

STAFF COMMENTS

- **Introduction of New Staff Liaison**

Mara Hunter introduced Jeff Jiang as the new performance management analyst who will serve as the staff liaison for the Chief's Advisory Committee due to organizational changes. Ms. Hunter explained she would be moving to support the Veterans Advisory Committee but would remain available during the transition. She noted ongoing technical issues with committee communications and advised members to watch for individual emails from either Mr. Jiang or Ms. Beal.

- **Update on Crime Trends and Police Activity**

Chief Paez provided a comprehensive update on crime trends:

- Positive Trends: Overall theft reports continue on a downward trajectory. October had zero theft from vehicles or motor vehicle thefts - a remarkable achievement.
- Year-to-Date Comparisons:
 - Motor vehicle thefts: 57 (compared to 56 last year) - the increase seen earlier in the year has leveled off
 - Breaking and entering: Only 12 reports all year - "extraordinarily low" for a community of Dublin's size
 - Burglaries: 18 reports (compared to 17 last year and 19 in 2023) - consistent numbers
- Prevention Reminders: With the holiday season approaching, Chief Paez emphasized the importance of removing property and car keys from vehicles, using vacation house watch services, activating security systems, maintaining good lighting, and neighbor communication.

- **CALEA Accreditation Update**

Responding to CP Maynard's question, Chief Paez reported on the successful CALEA accreditation assessment that occurred since the last CAC meeting. Committee members who participated in interviews included committee members Maynard, Baer and Barnes, who submitted their

comments through the web portal. The on-site visit focused on community members and officer interviews. While official confirmation will not be received until March, all indicators suggest successful reaccreditation. The Chief noted this is now a 4-year cycle (previously it was 3 years).

- **Community Safety Ambassadors**

In response to Vice Chair Apolinario's question, Chief Paez confirmed the Community Safety Ambassador program launched this year with five members who assist with vacation house watches among other duties, though regular officers continue this service as well.

ROUNDTABLE

Chair Hollie opened roundtable discussion, beginning with an update that she and Vice Chair Apolinario had presented a summary of the committee's 2025 activities to City Council the previous evening. Ms. Hunter complimented their presentation, noting they were well prepared with good notes. They presented before a larger-than-expected crowd of residents effectively.

CP Xing raised concerns about a recent tragic car accident involving a Jerome High School senior, observing what seemed to be an increasing number of serious teenage driver accidents over the past 2-3 years. She asked about prevention efforts beyond the existing "Slow Down Dublin" initiative.

Chief Paez acknowledged the tragedy, noting that while he could not confirm whether incidents have increased, even one such tragedy warrants attention. He explained that DC Tabernik, Lieutenant Stoll, and the community education unit have emphasized driving behavior in the schools' curriculum and work to promote responsible driving habits. He clarified that Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating this particular incident, as it occurred just outside City limits in Union County, though the neighborhood is in Dublin.

CP Maynard recognized that former committee member Ajmeri Hoque was recently elected to office, noting she "got her feet wet" on this committee. He also acknowledged that Imran Malik, another former member, ran for office though unsuccessfully. CP Maynard expressed hope this trend of committee members moving to elected or appointed positions with the City would continue.

- **2026 Meeting Schedule**

Jeff Jiang presented proposed 2026 committee meeting dates, explaining they had verified availability against Dublin City School's breaks, other Council committees, and Council meetings. He noted the Chief's Advisory Committee could not schedule meetings on a consistent day of the week due to scheduling conflicts.

CP Maynard requested a change to the April 8, 2026 Wednesday meeting, explaining Wednesdays do not work for him, and this would be one of his last meetings before his term ends in May. Mr. Jiang agreed to find an alternative non-Wednesday date for April.

CP Powell inquired if March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) was a concern, but committee members indicated a Tuesday meeting would not conflict with weekend festivities.

CP Powell moved to approve the 2026 meeting schedule with the anticipation that an alternative April 2026 meeting date would be identified. CP Goel seconded the motion.

Vote: CP Goel, yes; CP Powell, yes; CP Baer, yes; Vice Chair Apolinario, yes; CP Xing, yes; CP Goyal, yes; CP Maynard, yes; Chair Hollie, yes.

[Motion carried 8-0.]

- **December Meeting Discussion**

Mr. Jiang stated that the Committee's December meeting conflicts with the City Tree Lighting ceremony (6-8 PM). Discussion proceeded about whether to reschedule or cancel the meeting. CP Goel suggested canceling, noting that scheduling the meeting on any other December 2025 date would be challenging due to date conflicts. Following discussion, Committee consensus was to cancel the December 2025 meeting.

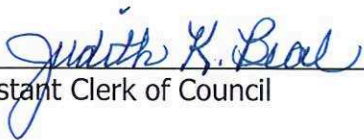
Chief Paez committed to reaching out to committee members individually for input on 2026 agenda topics. He indicated the intent to have a fuller conversation about traffic enforcement efforts, as traffic concerns remain the number one community issue, despite ongoing efforts through Slow Down Dublin and other initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Chair, Chief's Advisory Committee



Assistant Clerk of Council

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