



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Thursday, February 13, 2025 Chief's Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Maynard at 5:36 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that February is Black History month.

Chief Páez also welcomed committee members to the meeting and expressed gratitude for the previous meeting's discussion of the Police Department's 2025 goals. He thanked Chair Maynard and Vice Chair (VC) Hollie for participating in the pre-meeting agenda discussion for this meeting.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Dwayne Maynard (Chair), Kimberly Hollie (Vice Chair), Emmet Apolinario, Lisa Baer, Pat Foley, Alex O'Ryan, Zhen Xing, Ron Barnes, Guarev Goel (arrived 5:50 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: Susan Ortega

Staff Present: Chief Páez, Deputy Chief (DC) Tabernik, Deputy Chief (DC) Lattanzi, Mitch Ament

Guest Presenter: Kelly Davidson, Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC), Operations Manager

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Maynard asked for additions or corrections to the January 16, 2025 minutes of the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting. CP Barnes requested a correction of his and CP Foley's names on pages 3 and 4 of the minutes. CP Baer moved and CP Barnes seconded approval of the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: CP Xing, yes; CP O'Ryan, yes; Chair Maynard, yes; CP Baer, yes; CP Foley, yes; Vice Chair Hollie, yes; CP Barnes, yes; CP Apolinario, yes.

[Motion carried 8-0.]

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Paez requested the agenda order be amended to hear the NRECC presentation before the other New Business agenda topics.

Committee consensus was to amend the agenda accordingly.

- **Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC)**

DC Lattanzi introduced Kelly Davidson, NRECC Operations Manager. He stated that Ms. Davidson came to Dublin in 2024 from the City of Grove City with over 30 years of experience with that city's communications center. He thanked Ms. Davidson for immediately sharing the benefit of her experience with NRECC, guiding them through the ongoing changes in their field including advances in technology.

Ms. Davidson shared a PowerPoint with an overview of the Dublin NRECC. She shared a recent experience of the team, using technology to locate an ill, disoriented driver on the freeway and assist him in getting off the road to be provided medical assistance. She reviewed the history of NRECC, beginning as the City of Dublin Police and Washington Township Communications Center. In 2013, the center entered into an agreement with Norwich Township Fire, and in 2014 an agreement with Hilliard Police. At that time, the name was changed to NRECC. In 2017, Upper Arlington Fire Department joined; in 2018, Upper Arlington Police Department, and in 2020, both Worthington Police and Fire Departments joined. She explained that NRECC is a primary answering point for all wireline and voice over internet calls placed within the member municipalities. NRECC provides one of five wireless apps in Franklin County, answering wireless 911 calls for the northwest quadrant of Franklin County. In 2024, NRECC handled nearly 49,000 911 calls and over 101,000 non-emergency calls. Of those, there were over 82,000 police calls and 24,000 fire and EMS calls. NRECC is fully accredited, which involves significant documentation of policy and procedures. She listed the staff positions involved with the communications center and the schedule and tasks that are covered. Staff are trained to think critically and manage resources. They are trained and empowered to make difficult decisions in critical situations; make recommendations to responders based on the knowledge and resources available; and coordinate multi-jurisdictional responses. She has been very impressed with NRECC's handling of special events in Dublin. She described their hiring process and training program.

DC Lattanzi emphasized the critical role that dispatchers fulfill in sharing information in stressful, often life-threatening situations.

CP Xing inquired if NRECC handles non-emergency calls and if they are redirected to the appropriate entity.

Ms. Davidson responded that NRECC answers all emergency and non-emergency police calls for all the communities for which we provide dispatching services. Non-emergency calls are not re-directed. DC Lattanzi stated that there is the 911 emergency number and the 889-1112 non-emergency number, both of which are answered by NRECC.

CP Xing inquired if there had ever been analysis of the calls to determine if new residents to the country and minors are able to effectively communicate with the dispatcher. Is there any need for community education on making emergency calls effectively?

Ms. Davidson responded that NRECC has access 24-7 to a company called Language Line. If a caller is unable to communicate effectively, the dispatcher will conference them into the call; translation services are provided immediately and effectively.

CP Baer asked about the current staffing capacity. An NRECC position is currently advertised. If they are not fully staffed, does NRECC remain able to provide effective 24-7 coverage?

DC Lattanzi responded that they have a lateral hiring process and a testing process. Currently, NRECC is short 3 communications technicians and 3 supervisor positions. However, we still have

supervisor coverage for all shifts, and the manager supplements the supervisors. In the recent lateral hiring process, a number of candidates completed that phase successfully and will now proceed to the background phase. We are looking forward to learning if the testing process will provide qualified candidates to be interviewed and potentially hired. In the interim, some NRECC employees work overtime to meet any vacancies that arise in the schedule.

CP Xing stated that Dublin's demographics have been changing significantly over the last 10 years. She inquired if in addition to language barriers, dispatchers are encountering any other challenges related to cultural differences?

DC Lattanzi responded that they have not assessed that element, and he is unsure how that could be done, as it would require someone on the other end of the call to determine the cultural background involved to have ability to make a judgment call. There has been an increase in the use of the Language Line, and they believe they have the correct tool in place for the need.

CP Xing inquired if the immigrant population in Dublin is aware of the Language Line and using it to the extent needed.

DC Lattanzi stated that it may be a tool that the City could better highlight through the use of social media.

CP Xing stated that she recalls an incident where an immigrant family had a missing member and needed assistance in locating them. Currently, the immigrant population is relying on the community's help via different social media groups, but the Dublin Police Department has greater resources to help them.

She noted that City staff member, Ms. Myers, has been helpful communicating with the Chinese community through WeChat, but she is unaware if other ethnic groups have anything similar.

Ms. Davidson stated that NRECC participates in the Smart 911 program. If we could get word to community groups and leaders, they could encourage their community members to provide an online profile, then any time they were to call 911 from the phone number listed in that profile, NRECC would have the needed information immediately, which would speed up the response process. That is the benefit of Smart 911 – once a profile is created, the profile screen pops up simultaneously with receipt of the call.

Chair Maynard inquired where that information resides.

Ms. Davidson responded that it resides with the company. It is a protected database. NRECC cannot access the information at will; the caller initiates its display. Only the information in the profile is viewable and for a limited period of time.

CP Goel inquired if Smart 911 information could be provided to CAC members, so that they in turn could share it with their communities.

DC Lattanzi responded that information would be provided to the committee members.

Vice Chair Hollie inquired what technology is used to locate the disoriented driver referred to earlier. Ms. Davidson responded that the dispatchers had the license plate number, so they were able to use flock cameras, which are license plate readers; they can also ping the driver's phone.

DC Lattanzi responded that Police officers are able to utilize flock cameras. There are restrictions on when officers are permitted to access the phone company's data in order to ping phones. The dispatchers are able to obtain that information without a warrant when there are emergent situations. There are 25 flock cameras throughout the City.

DC Tabernik described the technology and process enacted by the use of flock cameras.

CP Xing inquired if the flock cameras provide live information only or if they record/retain data.

DC Tabernik responded that the camera technology is dual, providing both live and recorded history for investigation purposes.

Chair Maynard inquired the authorized strength of NRECC.

DC Lattanzi responded that there are a total of 42 positions.

Chair Maynard inquired if an individual who meets the qualifications for an NRECC position is moved through the training process immediately or if they are required to wait until other candidates also have met the requirements.

DC Lattanzi stated that the lateral process occurs more quickly than the testing process. Should a candidate be selected from the lateral process, they would enter the training program immediately. Supervisor candidates typically are already employees, but if there is no interest, they can be recruited externally.

Chair Maynard inquired if NRECC's hiring process can poach from other communities.

DC Lattanzi responded that NRECC certainly provides an opportunity to people who would like to come to NRECC. NRECC is a destination point in which many are interested.

Chair Maynard inquired Ms. Davidson's reason for leaving Grove City to come to NRECC.

Ms. Davidson responded that she worked in Grove City for 33 years. Their training is similar to NRECC's. She was trained many years ago by Dublin dispatcher, Jay Somerville. When she was eligible for retirement from Grove City, she became aware of this position. Within the central Ohio area, many are interested in coming to Dublin. This was an opportunity for her to have some challenge in her career.

CP Baer inquired if it is unusual for a dispatch center to serve so many jurisdictions and both Fire, EMS and Police combined.

Ms. Davidson responded that what NRECC provides is expensive due to the technology utilized, so consolidation of services is not uncommon. Ohio is a home rule state, and there are a number of communication centers in Ohio. Consolidation of dispatching services for several jurisdictions is wise, particularly if the communities are similar. Large city dispatching is very different from suburban dispatching.

CP Foley stated that he is retired from the Columbus Police Department. Dispatching services are very stressful, because they have the lives of others within their hands. It is rewarding to know that people such as Ms. Davidson are in charge.

Ms. Davidson responded that the safety of the officers, EMS workers and community is the goal.

- **Pursuit Policy and Pursuit Analysis**

DC Tabernik presented the Police Department's pursuit policy and analysis. At the last committee meeting, an example was provided via a video of a Dublin pursuit ending with a well-executed pit maneuver. He noted that the pursuit policy is a 10-page nuanced yet specific policy that is updated as needed. Pursuit is a very dangerous tactic for the public, suspects and officers, so we want to make sure it is very clear what to do and what to avoid. Per the definition in the policy, a pursuit is one or more police officers trying to apprehend someone in a motor vehicle, who appears to be trying to evade the police and avoid apprehension. The officer is considered in pursuit when they have activated both light and siren and exhausted all other appropriate means of communicating their intent. The Dublin Police Department has a high, restrictive threshold for permitting a pursuit. Pursuit is a very dangerous tactic for the police officer, public and the suspect, so the pursuit must

meet the mission of protecting lives. He reviewed the circumstances that may permit the pursuit. The necessity of apprehension must outweigh the risk associated with the pursuit. Traffic violations, misdemeanor theft and non-violent violations do not qualify for pursuit. Discussion of possible pursuit considerations continued.

DC Tabernik stated that if alone in pursuit, the police officer is constantly assessing several elements and communicating with the control center. If a second police officer joins the pursuit, he takes over communicating with the control center and the first police officer can focus on the perpetrator. The control center also has several responsibilities, including communicating with other jurisdictions, if the pursuit is within their vicinity.

Chief Paez stated that the pursuit is managed by a supervisor. NRECC covers calls and manages the potential for pursuits for 4 different agencies; it does not make decisions about the pursuit. The supervisor within the particular agency manages the pursuit per the policy and practices of their agency.

CP Foley inquired if the number of cars engaged in a pursuit is limited.

DC Tabernik responded affirmatively. Too many vehicles involved creates a dangerous situation. Only marked vehicles that are pursuit-rated are allowed to pursue. Dublin has approximately a dozen unmarked vehicles. An unmarked vehicle can engage in a pursuit only until a marked vehicle joins the pursuit; at that point, the unmarked vehicle relinquishes the pursuit to the marked vehicle. No more than 3 marked Dublin police cruisers may be involved in a pursuit, although that can be waived by the on-duty supervisor evaluating the conditions of the pursuit. In the pursuit video the committee viewed at their January meeting, committee members saw a good example of the supervisor, who wasn't present in the pursuit, managing the pursuit. Sgt. Jordan Ratliff, a second-shift sergeant, while listening to the audio of the officers involved, did a good job directing the pursuit, which ultimately was resolved by use of the pit maneuver. The supervisor evaluates if the qualifications for a pursuit are present. They direct and control it through radio communications and monitor, approve or coordinate tactics used to stop the violator. If a situation does not meet the pursuit policy, the supervisor directs them to terminate the pursuit. If neighboring jurisdiction is pursuing into our jurisdiction, we inquire the purpose of the pursuit. If it meets Dublin's pursuit policy, we can assist with the pursuit; if it does not, we will not assist with the pursuit. We can shut down roadways to funnel the pursuit within a safer area.

CP Xing inquired, in a situation where a driver is not aware that they are the suspected perpetrator and continues driving, what the police officer does. Do they discontinue the pursuit and fine the driver later or continue to follow the driver?

DC Tabernik responded that if the vehicle does not meet our pursuit policy, i.e. a speed violation and the officer has exhausted all attempts to signal them to stop, the officer would not pursue the vehicle. However, we would have documented the license plate number and would follow up at a later time. At that time, the officer would evaluate the driver's response concerning the incident and has the discretion to handle accordingly.

CP Apolinario inquired about the use of stop sticks.

DC Tabernik reviewed possible stopping techniques, including vehicle intercepts and controlled deflation devices, such as stop sticks. He noted that pit maneuvers are authorized for vehicles travelling under 45 mph. He stated that moving roadblocks also can be utilized, which involves positioning cruisers on either side of a vehicle to bring it to a slow stop. Stationary roadblocks or

ramming a suspect vehicle are permitted only as a last resort in extreme situations, where deadly force would be authorized. Use of firearms is permitted only in an extreme situation. Officers are not authorized to discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle except as a last resort for self-defense or defense of another.

DC Tabernik reviewed the administrative reporting and pursuit training. They receive some driving training at the police academy. Dublin Police then sends them for advanced pursuit, stop stick and pit maneuver training. Once a pursuit occurs, the officers involved complete a report which is reviewed by the supervisor who oversaw the pursuit. It is then reviewed by the operations bureau commander to ensure the pursuit was in compliance with our policy and training and is legally compliant. Final signoff and approval is provided by the Chief.

CP Goel inquired if the administrative reporting includes an accountability and reporting category.

DC Tabernik stated that the statement of facts will be reviewed by the bureau commander and chief to ensure techniques were used in accordance with department policy.

Chair Maynard inquired if forcible stopping is defined in the policy.

Chief Paez stated that the definitions are within the section regarding forcible stopping techniques. Each technique is individually defined, because they are very specific, different forcible stopping techniques.

A question was asked as to whether the City attorney reviewed the policy.

Chief Paez responded that the policy has been in existence for over 20 years, which was before his time with the Department. He is unsure if the City attorney reviewed it at its inception. The policy is a very restrictive policy. He has been involved in discussions and edits of the policy every year since 2005.

CP Barnes stated that everything is covered; as a procedure manual, it is great. However, as a policy, from a legal perspective, it is too extensive. If any one of the items is missed in a pursuit, the Department could be sued.

Chief Paez stated that there are very few policies whose existence are dictated by Ohio Revised Code. Domestic violence and pursuit policies are required. The ORC requires that, "each law enforcement entity shall adopt a written policy for the pursuit of a motor vehicle of a person who violates a law of the State or any ordinance of the municipal incorporation. In developing its policy, each law enforcement entity shall consider pursuit policy standards and best practice recommendations as established by the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board or similar law enforcement accrediting entity. The Chief Law Enforcement Officer or other chief official of the entity shall formally advise and train each police officer or other person with arrest authority that the entity employs concerning each pursuit policy adopted by the entity pursuant to this section." It is his responsibility is to make sure the policy is clear and that we are training on it and adhering to it. We do this almost annually. He noted that he has a position on the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board. The Department is accredited to CALEA standards.

DC Tabernik pointed out that in the last 3 years, we had 3 pursuits. On a yearly basis, the Operations Bureau Commander and the Crime Analyst analyze the pursuits. Although there are few pursuits, we evaluate for trends, opportunities for training or policy revisions.

[Discussion continued regarding pursuits.]

CP Foley that he served as a police officer before there were pursuit policies. He believes developing pursuit policies has saved many lives.

Chair Maynard stated that we are concerned about transparency and accountability. If the Department provides its policy and is sued, the likelihood that the Department would be subject to a large award, if any, is minimal.

Chief Paez stated that we have invested much time with the policy and in providing training thereon. The policy is presented to this committee in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Chair Maynard noted that the last review of the policy was last week. Does the document reviewed tonight incorporate any changes that were recommended in that review?

Chief Paez responded that the document is a working draft. It includes the most recent clarification about the use of stop sticks in the Forcible Stopping portion of the policy. The supervisors are working on the final language.

Chair Maynard requested when completed, that a copy of the policy be provided to the Committee members.

- **Amending March 27, 2025 Meeting Date**

Mr. Ament provided suggested date replacements for the currently scheduled March 27, 2025 meeting. He noted that on the two Wednesday dates, the Chamber is available; on the two Thursday dates, the Chamber is not available, so the meeting would need to be held in the Development Building large conference room, which has inadequate audio technology.

Mr. Apolinario moved, Mr. Goel seconded to amend the March 27, 2025 meeting date to March 13, 2025.

Vote: CP Xing, yes; CP O’Ryan, yes; CP Foley, yes; CP Goel, yes; CP Barnes, yes; CP Baer, yes; CP Apolinario, yes; Vice Chair Hollie, yes; Chair Maynard, yes.

[Motion carried 9-0]

STAFF COMMENTS/UPDATES

Chief Paez stated that at the last City Council meeting, he provided an update to Council on the Department’s 2024 goals progress. He will be presenting quarterly updates to City Council on the Department’s 2025 goals progress. So far in 2025, the total violent crimes number is 3 incidents, which is similar to the number of occurrences in first quarter 2024. The number of thefts, including thefts from vehicles, theft of vehicles, burglary and breaking and entering reflects a downward trend. The number of traffic crashes is down and the number of traffic enforcement activities has increased. Chief Paez noted that the Department has made a conditional offer to an extraordinary candidate who is currently completing some hiring requirements. He anticipates providing a swearing-in date for that candidate in the near future. The Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Board just met and officially approved the first 10 agencies in the State of Ohio to receive accreditation through that program. Dublin Police Department is one of the inaugural group of agencies. He noted that Rebecca Myers and the Communications and Marketing Team has produced a video as the City’s recognition of Black History Month, which would be shared with the committee. [Video shown.]

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Maynard stated that he appreciates the City’s willingness and intentionality in recognizing that black history is American history. It is important to acknowledge and celebrate it.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the video, which presented interesting history on Black History Month.

CP O'Ryan inquired if the City would be sharing the Black History video via City social media. Chair Maynard responded that the video was included in today's Weekly Update, which is posted on Thursdays.

CP Apolinario stated that he attended the recent MLK Dinner. Individuals present expressed appreciation for the diversity acceptance experienced in the City of Dublin.

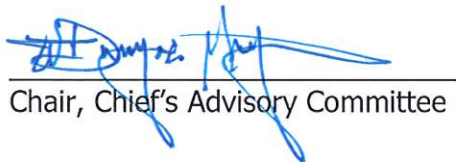
CP Barnes noted that he attended the Police Department's recent Awards Dinner and was impressed by the many honors and recognitions shared at the quality event.

CP Goel applauded the City for being very intentional in promoting diversity.

Chair Maynard stated that his term as Chair will soon be coming to an end. He is hopeful that the new leadership will continue to be intentional and always attempt to press for those things that are representative of our community and important to voice.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Chair, Chief's Advisory Committee



Assistant Clerk of Council

Dublin Police Department - Contact Information 614-410-4800
Chief Justin Páez DC Nick Tabernik
jPáez@dublin.oh.us ntabernik@dublin.oh.us