



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee (In Person) Thursday, June 30, 2022

Welcome to Committee by Chief Páez

Chief Páez welcomed the committee to the meeting.

Committee members present: W. Dwayne Maynard, Ajmeri Hoque, Susan Ortega, Emmet Apolinario, Zhen Xing, Yanling Yin, Chief Justin Páez, Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi, Deputy Chief Nick Tabernik, Jay Somerville, Officer Amber McCloskey, PIO Rebecca Myers; Guests: Kirby Dearth (intern), Sergeant Jake Stoll, Officer Chad Patrick, DCSO Lieutenant Warren, Susan Ortega's Guest, Chuck Collier of Dublin City Schools, Public Guest Dee Marks

Minutes by: Rebecca Metcalf

Committee Business

Chair W. Dwayne Maynard and Vice Chair Ajmeri Hoque

Dwayne Maynard welcomed all to the meeting. Gave a shout out to Isao Shoji who is travelling in Japan, hopes for a successful and safe trip. Also welcomed back Director Somerville. He congratulated the City of Dublin, the CAC, and Kirby Dearth who worked with them on putting together Dublin's first Juneteenth celebration event. The event was well attended and created the foundation to expand and build upon in the coming years. He congratulated Rebecca Myers on her wedding. He shared his thoughts for the evening, thinking globally, being aware nationally, and being aware locally. He commented on the War in Ukraine that continues to rage on for four full months; thoughts and prayers continue to be with them. Globally, he thinks about the President attending the G7 NATO meetings and their potential importance to the world. Nationally, he thinks about gun legislation that recently passed amidst more mass shootings and gun violence and against the backdrop of 4th of July this weekend; CPD asked that people who decide to carry to Red, White and Boom do it conscientiously. He commented on the House Committee Meetings regarding the attack that occurred on January 6 and revelations continue to come to light on how close our democracy came to being potentially compromised. He also commented on the Supreme Court rulings that had come down this past week with them ending their term today; the biggest decision was the overturn of *Rowe v. Wade*; it is hard to imagine a United States where women's rights have been rolled back in just a week and what does that mean to the country going forward. Justice Breyer retired effective today and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in; for the

first time, there are four women on the Supreme Court. He commented that the CAC's responsibility is to focus on local issues and on issues that relate to public safety in Dublin. He then reviewed resolution 41-20 that brought the initial CAC into existence and asked members to be focused, thoughtful, and intentional in trying to determine what they can do to impact our community.

He then deferred to Chief Páez to call roll.

- **Attendance**

Chief Páez called roll for the meeting:

Judge Dwayne Maynard - present

Ms. Ajmeri Hoque – present

Ms. Susan Ortega – present

Ms. Zhen Xing - present

Mr. Emmet Apolinario - present

Ms. Yanling Yin – present

Mr. Gaurav Goel – not present

Mr. Isao Shoji –not present

Ms. Rama Billakenty – not present

Ms. Stella Villalba – not present

Review/Amend/Adopt Last Meeting's Minutes

Dwayne Maynard asked if all had an opportunity to review the minutes from the May 26, 2022 meeting and if they had any changes or additions. The committee members had no changes or additions. Dwayne Maynard asked for one correction, changing a number from 220 to 27. With that correction, Dwayne Maynard entertained a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Ajmeri Hoque moved to accept the minutes as amended and Emmet Apolinario seconded the motion. Dwayne Maynard asked that all in favor of accepting the minutes as amended acknowledge by stating "I" and any opposed by stating "Nay". All stated "I" and there were no nays.

Old Business

Dwayne Maynard asked if there was any old business. Neither the committee nor Rebecca Myers had any old business.

Chief's Update to Committee

Chief Páez provided an update on the Safe Space Initiative; this is a support initiative in the community to provide safe haven for those in a time of need and is modeled after a program in Seattle, Washington. The police department has partnered with Washington Township Fire Department, Rainbow Dublin, and Dublin City Schools; Officer McCloskey is involved with the project as well. The partners met over the past several months to discuss the focus of the program and pull together various pieces. Officer McCloskey assisted with developing training to provide to our department and other partners on how to assist if someone comes to their facility for assistance. Members of the program must

be in the City of Dublin in order for the police department to respond; the next step is to work with the CIAC and internal groups to see if they are interested in joining the initiative as partners as well. They have created a logo (which participants would display) and have ordered as window clings. Officers McCloskey and Brown delivered training internally and coordinated training at the fire department. Chief Páez asked the members of the CAC to support the Safe Space Initiative and asked that they join as a community partner.

Dwayne Maynard suggested deferring a vote to become partners in this initiative until more or all members are in attendance.

Ajmeri Hoque asked the following questions: What is the expected launch date for the program? Chief Páez advised they would like to launch the program before the end of August but that is dependent upon getting the artwork back and training completed. She asked about the business partnerships and how they are being informed. Chief Páez advised there will be a public introduction, will get information out through the Chamber of Commerce, word of mouth, and through city committees. She asked if this completely voluntary? Chief Páez advised that it is voluntary.

Emmet Apolinario stated that he loves the logo and asked if they have to be in the City of Dublin. Chief Páez advised that the location where the decal would be displayed would have to be in the City of Dublin where police could respond but to be a support resource they would not necessarily have to be in the City of Dublin. He stated that we could use them as a resource to point folks to if needed; we want to be inclusive but mindful of our reach as a police department.

Zhen Xing commented that this is the first she has heard of this program but that it sounds like a wonderful idea and would be an ongoing project and that it would be important to learn more about the initiative. Chief Páez thanked her for that reflection and advised that there is a web page currently in development.

Dwayne Maynard commented about partnerships; two entities he thought would be good partnerships the Dublin Library and Dublin Arts Council. Chief Páez advised that they have not reached out to them yet and that he wanted to get the input of the CAC and see if this is something they would support. Rebecca Myers advised that the Justice Center would be the first site and they would then invite others.

Susan Ortega commented that it will be interesting to see what businesses might participate; also that the QR code should be multi-lingual.

Kirby Dearth commented that a huge area of opportunity is working with the Chamber of Commerce; they can help facilitate some of this conversation.

Public Comment: Dee Marks suggested having two tabs on the website one for Dublin Resident and also a Dublin City School Resident; parents would go there first to find that information. Other populations to consider would be people with disabilities and where would that safe space resource come from.

Chief Páez asked if the CAC would be comfortable in supporting this initiative. Dwayne Maynard asked for more time to consider the initiative; he would like more input, detail and the presence of more CAC members prior to a vote.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if there are any more meetings scheduled with the focus group, maybe CAC members could attend. Chief Páez advised that it is difficult to get all of those groups together, but asked if the CAC is comfortable with the police department moving forward.

Yanling Yin commented that with additional details, she will talk to people and educate others, and is comfortable to offer support.

Dwayne Maynard asked to table the vote. Chief Páez can revisit at the next meeting and allow other members the opportunity to review. Dwayne Maynard thanked Chief Páez for the information.

New business

Dwayne asked to move to next topic of discussion.

DC Tabernik shared information in response to questions from the CAC regarding school safety. He commented that police feel the same anxiety with children in our schools, and that we recognize that it is our job to help with that anxiety, and for children to feel safe in schools. He introduced Sgt. Jake Stoll, CEU Sergeant and Firearms/Tactics Instructor to present information on school safety; Officer Chad Patrick (20 years of service with the department, SRO in the schools, active shooter training instructor); Chuck Collier, Director of Safety and Security with Dublin City Schools and retired Dublin Police Officer (Active Shooter Training Instructor); and Lt. Warren from the Union County Sheriff's Office (UCSO).

Sgt. Stoll advised that the Community Education Unit (CEU) is comprised of a Sergeant, a Corporal, and seven School Resource Officers (SRO).

Chuck Collier added that the School Board approved another contract for Dublin Police SROs last night for and that UCSO goes before the board in July 7. The schools and departments have a great partnership.

Sgt. Stoll continued his presentation providing an outline of the school resource officer program, sharing the philosophy of the agency, training, equipment, and the mindset of our agency. He then shared information on the seven School Resource Officers and their school assignments.

School Resource Officers

-Officer Brian Nimmo, current Scioto HS SRO; he will be retiring prior to the start of the next school year; he has been the SRO there for the better part of 20 years.

-Officer Paul Burks Jerome HS

-Officer Eric Cochrun Coffman HS

-Officer Kathy Evans Karrer Middle School (Hopewell, Scottish Corners, Wyandot Elementary Schools)

Officer Patrick added that although officers are not assigned to the elementary schools, they do try to visit their elementary schools at least once a week or when they are needed for any assistance.

-Officer Rigoberto Quintanilla Davis Middle School (Chapman, Olde Sawmill, Riverside and Wright Elementary Schools); Sgt. Stoll added that although this school is outside Dublin city limits, that the department has a great partnership with Columbus Police Department (CPD) to allow us to have an officer in that school.

Dwayne Maynard asked if he was also a CLO. Sgt. Stoll advised that yes he is still a CLO (Community Liaison Officer). Chief Páez clarified that the SRO is a full-time ancillary assignment and that the CLO is a function in addition to his full time responsibilities.

-Officer Scott Nichelson – Sells Middle School (Indian Run, Thomas and Emerald Campus)

-Officer Chad Patrick – Grizzell Middle School

SRO background – developed in late 1950s, relationship building between police and youth, serve as teachers, counselors, law enforcement, take action on law-related issues, resource for many areas: violence discussion, alcohol and drug use prevention, safety, crime prevention; problem solvers, resources for teachers.

Zhen Xing commented that she did not grow up in this country and remembers the first time seeing Officer Evans in the school; it was shocking to see a police officer in the school. She remarked that she was glad to see the background of how this came to be and asked what are the specific matters that SROs deal with; what kind of matters are the officers working on.

Officer Patrick advised that on a regular basis their role is to deal with safety and security in the schools; on a regular day, he conducts perimeter checks once all kids are in and from that point on it is situational; he shares information with the schools, an example would be advising the schools of contact police may have had with a student. He also commented that a large part of his day is interacting with kids and making them comfortable to come to him, working with staff and answering any questions they may

have. Additionally he works with parents; it gives them piece of mind knowing that he is there and a resource when needed. Zhen Xing asked what types of things they would come to him with versus a teacher. He advised that he has had parents come to him regarding domestic abuse, custody issues, why their son or daughter may not be responding well. His presence gives the parent that piece of mind and the student knowledge that there is someone there they can go to for help.

Dwayne Maynard asked if he attends sporting events for the schools. Officer Patrick advised that he is not obligated to go but he does go on his own time to offer support; when he is there, he has what he needs to perform as a police officer if needed.

Sergeant Stoll encourages them to go to those events even those outside of our jurisdiction; although they could not take enforcement action they could communicate with the enforcement authority. He also advised that it is imperative to keep confidential, interactions they may have with a student.

Zhen Xing asked about an incident that didn't happen in Dublin but another city; police officers went to a classroom and called a student out; they escorted them to a car but didn't find anything; asked if that is something they would do here.

Chuck Collier advised that anytime the schools want to talk with a student, they do not send an officer to get the student.

Yanling Yin asked how you prevent rumors and gossip. Officer Patrick advised that in the high school, there is much rumor and gossip; people will see things, but they try to move students along. Chuck Collier added that it is not uncommon for students to see an SRO walking and talking with students; they are so much more than just police officers, they are a resource.

Susan Ortega spoke regarding Syntero's partnership with the schools and introduced her colleague that works specifically with the schools.

Sergeant Stoll continued providing the SRO background information: the DARE program began in Dublin in 1989; in 1998, the Dublin SRO program officially began in the high schools and in 2001 was expanded to the middle schools; with the addition of Jerome High School, the program was added there in 2004. Sergeant Stoll then deferred to Chuck Collier to provide information about a School Threat Assessment Team.

Chuck Collier provided information about House Bill 123, which requires that all public schools serving grades 6-12 have a threat assessment team in place by March 24, 2023. Ajmeri Hoque asked who is on the team. He advised the team can be counselors, administrators, officers, teachers – there are no restrictions on who can be on team but it is led by a building administrator; Ajmeri Hoque asked how often are students part of

that conversation. Chuck Collier advised that they don't try to involve students unless they are involved with a particular issue. Ajmeri Hoque asked how a student would know to whom they should go. Chuck Collier advised that students don't need to know who is on the team; they could go to a teacher or administrator who would then get that information to someone on the team.

Sergeant Stoll continued his presentation. SROs advise on school safety drills; assist victims of crime in reporting; follow up on referrals from children's services; assist the guidance department with students with suicidal thoughts; review daily calls for service to check for student/police interaction that may need support or follow-up; coordinate safety plans for events; meet with various clubs, student organizations, PTOs; meet and assist students with projects.

Dwayne Maynard asked who determines how many times there are school safety drills. Chuck Collier advised that it is state mandated; Dwayne Maynard asked if there is any thought of doing more than what is mandated by the state in light of recent events. Chuck Collier advised that it is hard to take away instruction time from the teachers. Officer Patrick added that he is approached sometimes with questions from teachers on safety and efficiency or on how to set up the classroom. Chuck Collier advised that all SROs have great relationships with the administrators.

DC Tabernik advised that we are going to do a tabletop exercise involving the schools, sheriff's office, and other entities next month. They will get together and work through a scenario. Zhen Xing asked what a tabletop exercise is. DC Tabernik explained that instead of actually going out and conducting an exercise, you all go through it around a table.

Public Comment: Dee Marks commented that increasing the number of times they have drills could be detrimental to the kids; making them go through that practice too many times could impact their mental health.

Susan Ortega talked about timing being an important thing, it is important to be prepared, and being open and honest with parents is important too.

Ajmeri Hoque asked if there are differences handling situations in the various schools and if there are handouts that go out to parents. Chuck Collier advised that they handle on a parent-to-parent basis. There is currently no information on the website but he will look into possibly adding that.

Ajmeri Hoque asked about events that occur during the school day. Officer Patrick spoke about a recent program at his school; they monitored parents and flow into the building; once all were inside, he locked the doors and moved inside to monitor the event. Once complete he moved back out to the doors to keep an eye on all as they exited; it is regular

practice to move with the crowd and keep an eye on the crowd, which also ensures their presence is seen. That is one of the most important parts; their presence. Officer Stoll commented that the SROs work as a team and are very team oriented working together to cover the schools.

Chuck Collier advised that Union County Sheriff's Office (UCSO) operates the same way; Deputy Smith (assigned to Eversole Middle School and Depp Elementary) and he communicate very regularly. They can rely on each other and work together if needed. The Deputy advised that their philosophy is very similar to DPD and that Deputy Smith sometimes gets calls from the principals in the evenings.

Ajmeri Hoque asked about schools in various jurisdictions, who would be the person that would lead. Chuck Collier advised that it would be whoever arrives first. Ajmeri Hoque asked how that is communicated to all that are responding. Chief Páez advised that when something occurs in a crisis, it is chaos; it is our job to corral that chaos; he cannot give an answer for all circumstances but provided an example of response from the tragedy that occurred at Tuttle Mall a few weeks ago. Dublin officers were some of the first to respond; they went straight into building; there were so many elements that were unknown, our communication center fielded over 50 phone calls, sorting through all that is overwhelming; but as our officers responded, they met up with Columbus and coordinated their efforts; as you get an idea first hand you take control until it is taken from you; run like you own it until someone tells you otherwise. Once the event concludes, we continue to navigate that crisis sometimes for months. It gives an opportunity to review response and glean information from that response.

Yanling Yin asked about the incident and that day, she had a friend that went to the mall that day but got there and saw what was happening; if it happens again, what is the information channel. Chief Páez advised in that particular incident social media; what we knew at that time. You never find out information as soon as you want. There was much information that was shared but Columbus was the entity responsible for getting out that information in this instance. Typically, the supervisor in charge communicates to administration and work with our public information officer (PIO) to communicate that information. The focus is on what is occurring presently in that situation while being mindful of pushing that information out; you have to be accurate with that information.

Ajmeri Hoque commented that Twitter is a good source for immediate information. Yanling Yin was thinking of something more like Amber Alert, or weather alert type of alert to share information. Chief Páez will bring back some information on how to get information as soon as possible. Chuck Collier added that there is an app called "Citizen"; it is not always 100% accurate, but that might be something that could be used. It is local-based on wherever you are.

Susan Ortega asked who makes the decision about what is communicated; is it the police department of the district. Chief Páez advised that it is a partnership and balance; there is no absolute hard fast rule.

Chuck Collier advised that we are very lucky to have a PIO to work with in Dublin; some agencies do not have that.

Ajmeri Hoque asked how the CAC could help with a messaging. Chuck Collier advised the best advice is to stay home and stay out of the situation; when you are able to come parents will be advised. That is the best course of action. Ajmeri Hoque commented that might be something to communicate to parents. Chief Páez realizes there is a balance, we know that there will be people that will show up but how do we provide a safe environment.

As the meeting was extending past time, Dwayne Maynard asked if Chuck Collier would be available to attend the next meeting to continue the conversation. The committee discussed possible next meeting dates and decided on July 28, 2022 for the next meeting. Chief Páez advised that the tabletop is on the 27th so the 28th will be a good time to have the meeting.

Current Events

Ajmeri Hoque commented about the six-week abortion ban; that is probably a conversation they should have as a committee.

Susan Ortega advised that Syntero has many resources on their website that walk through how to talk to your children about specific situations.

Chief Páez advised that the city would pursue the initiative for Safe Space but table the vote of support.

Public commentary

Dwayne Maynard asked Kirby Dearth to share information from the CIAC; Kirby Dearth advised that they are putting together a timeline and reviewing recommendations but there is more information to come; they are potentially looking at having a retreat da but the CIAC is working to get its feet off the ground.

Dwayne Maynard asked if there was anything else to add for the good of the order. There were no additional comments or additions. He asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ajmeri Hoque motioned to adjourn and Emmet Apolinario seconded the motion. Dwayne Maynard asked that all in favor of adjourning the meeting signify by stating "I". All were in favor and the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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