



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

159 S. Ludington St.
Columbus, WI. 53925
920-623-5919 (Main)
920-623-5930 (Fax)

December 12, 2024

Mayor Hammer
Members of the Common Council
Columbus Police and Fire Commission:

RE: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, November 2024

Attached is the monthly report for the Columbus Police Department.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions.

Chief Dennis Weiner



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PERSONNEL

The department is not fully staffed. Current staffing as of December 12, 2024:

	Authorized by Budget	Actual
<u>Sworn Officers</u>		
Full-time sworn police positions:	10	9
Patrol Officer Full time	6	5
Sergeant	1	1
Lieutenant	2	2
Chief	1	1
<u>Clerical</u>		
Office Manager (full-time)	1	1
Clerk (full-time)	1	1

Current Staff:

Name	Date of Hire
Chief Dennis Weiner	02/18/2008
Lieutenant Roger Witthun	12/17/2001
Lieutenant Darrel Ward	09/19/2022
Sergeant Mike Rosecky	12/30/2022
Officer Julia Knoll	01/03/2022
Officer Matt Dammen	01/03/2023
Officer Spencer Trevorrow	07/31/2023
Officer Colton Hayes	07/30/2024
Officer Cole Vance	08/05/2024
Officer vacant	
Officer James Kicmol (part time)	09/25/2023
Office Manager Erika Kellar	02/04/1999
Public Safety Bonnie Langsdorf (part time LTE)	08/12/2024



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PERSONNEL:

The posting period for the Lieutenant position that will be vacant January 2, 2025 upon Lieutenant Witthun's retirement has closed. We received 1 application, from an internal candidate. The Police and Fire Commission approved the proposed process moving forward at their December 11 meeting. The process continues.

Cole Vance will graduate from the Madison College Police Academy tomorrow (December 13) and will be starting his local training the week of December 16. Local training is approximately 3 months and can vary for several factors, such as call/experience volume, progress of the applicant, etc.

Officer Hayes is at the end of his local training and will be on solo patrol in the near future.

The process to fill the final vacant officer position was not successful. We received 3 applications. Two had been thru the academy and were working for departments, but had resigned from them. After a deeper review neither were options. We proceeded forward on the 3rd applicant who failed one of the testing steps and it not eligible for hire as well. We are back to the drawing board for that position and will also be down an additional position upon Lieutenant Witthun's retirement.

I was contacted by a former officer with 30+ year's experience, including command level, who is interested in working part for us part time. He worked 13 years for our department, left us and semi-retired in 2017, but worked for other departments after that part time. He was certified by the Police and Fire Commission for hire at the December 11 meeting and we plan to start him ASAP. Not only will he help our schedule, his substantial experience will be a plus to the younger officers on the department.

The application process closed for the public safety clerk. We received 8 applications. We interviewed 4 people during the week of December 9. We are in the process of making a job offer.

FLEET/EQUIPMENT:

Sergeant Rosecky received a grant for an alcohol dry tank standard. This is pressurized tank, very similar to a small oxygen tank, that contains compressed gas and alcohol at a .08 alcohol concentration. It is used for calibrating our PBT's (preliminary breath test) devices, which we carry in the squads to determine the amount of alcohol a person has consumed. Our current method to do that is very antiquated and this will make it very simple. The value of this grant is about \$700.

Through the government surplus program, Lieutenant Ward was able to obtain a brand new, 75" Smartboard. It was free; however, we did have to pay for shipping, which was nominal compared to the value of the Smartboard. It is 10 years old, but was new, in box and packaging, and never used. It was first used last week during the briefing for the Holiday Train for all staff and volunteers, where I displayed a map of the area and each person's assignment.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Officer Knoll gave a presentation to 7th graders about alcohol, drugs, and life choices.

Sergeant Rosecky and Officer Hayes gave a similar presentation to a different 7th grade class the following day.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS:

During the month of November officers issued 113 traffic citations, 173 warnings and 50 ordinance citations.



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NOTES:

As I reported earlier this year, I have directed staff to address ordinance violations specific to properties in the city. Most common ones were junk, clutter, abandoned/inoperable vehicles, including storage or parking of recreational and other vehicles. The goal is to improve the appearance of our neighborhoods. The vast majority of violations we address are resolved promptly, some needed further encouragement, and some are defiant and/or refuse. Our process has been consistent. When a violation is observed, the officer provides those in violation a copy of the ordinance, and gives them time, usually 20 days, to get into compliance or face citation(s). If no compliance within 20 days, citations are issued. No one is or has ever first alerted to an ordinance violation(s) by receiving a ticket in the mail. That was implied in a social media post from someone cited recently, that created some criticism of our department. That specific incident was handled like all the others.

We experienced the first snowfall on November 21 and investigated several weather-related accidents. Motorists need to adjust to the road conditions, especially adjusting following distances and understanding vehicle stopping ability/distance relative to the roadway conditions. While I was assisting at a rear end accident at the bottom of the northbound USH 151 off ramp to STH 16/60, a vehicle came down the off ramp, braked at the last minute, and began traveling sideways and came within 8 feet of striking my squad, with all emergency lights activated. It slid partially thru the stop sign at the bottom of the off ramp. Fortunately, nothing was traveling eastbound on STH 16/60 or we would have had another collision.

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Columbus Police Department

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received
911 HANG UP	12
ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN	1
ACCIDENT-NON REPORTABLE	1
ACCIDENT PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	11
ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	2
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	13
BURGLAR ALARM	5
MEDICAL ALARM	2
PANIC ALARM	1
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	8
ANIMAL BITE	1
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENT	2
DETOX	2
CITIZEN ASSIST	5
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	1
CONTROLLED	12
CIVIL PROCESS	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	5
DEATH INVESTIGATION	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	6
DOMESTIC ABUSE	6
DRIVING COMPLAINT	8
ELDER ABUSE	1



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EMS CALL	17
EXTRA PATROL	11
FIRE GAS LEAK/CARBON MONOXIDE	1
VEHICLE FIRE	1
FLEET MAINTENANCE	3
FOOT PATROL	2
FRAUD	2
GAS DRIVE-OFF	1
HARASSMENT	1
ROAD HAZARD	1
JUVENILE INCIDENT	4
KEEP THE PEACE	1
NOISE COMPLAINT	2
OUT WITH PERSON	7
OPEN DOOR	6
ORDINANCE VIOLATION	3
OWI	6
PARKING ENFORCMENT	12
PARKING VIOLATION	17
PROPERTY DAMAGE	1
SECURITY	148
SEX OFFENSE	1
SLIDE OFF	1
SPECIAL EVENT	3
STALKING	1
SUSPICIOUS	9
THEFT	2
THREAT	2
TIPS/LEADS	2
TRAFFIC CONTROL	5
TRAFFIC STOP	228
UNWANTED PERSON	1
VEH LOCKOUT	4
WARRANT	2
WELFARE	17
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Total Calls:	632