



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

September 12, 2024

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

RE: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, AUGUST 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 September 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	0

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
Officer Joseph Lowe (part time)	02/07/2024
Office Manager Erika Kellar	02/04/1999
Public Safety Bonnie Langsdorf (part time LTE)	08/12/2024



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PERSONNEL:

The Public Safety Clerk position has been posted. Applications are being accepted until September 15. Bonnie Langsdorf has returned on a part time basis.

TRAINING

Officers attended quarterly firearms training at the Juneau range.

Officer Hayes is progressing well with his local training. Officer Vance has completed his first month at the police academy.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

National Night Out was held August 6 in Fireman's Park. It was a huge success and attendance was amazing and had grown from the year prior. Thank you to the citizens and business community of Columbus, whose donations fund 100% of this event, with the exception of staff wages. Without that support there would be no event. We are looking forward to 2025.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS:

During the month of August officers issued 81 traffic citations, 52 ordinance citations and 115 warnings.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS:

At the end of May, the Amtrak Borealis train began making 2 stops daily in Columbus, in addition to the 2 stops by the Empire Builder. Since that specific time there has been a significant increase in police calls to remove passengers from the train. These have been for issues related to behavior, intoxication, drug use, ticket issues, etc. This is a complicated situation for a variety of reasons. First, if there is a law violation before they stop here, it likely did not occur in our jurisdiction as they are in the City of Columbus for a very brief distance before the stop. We will respond and remove someone upon request, but then another issue presents itself. They are stranded in town until the next train, if they are allowed to get back on, which sometimes is the next day. They have had no money, no food, and occasionally no phone. Those removed are typically uncooperative with us. In one case 3 people traveling together were removed. In one incident while removing someone from the train we were dealing with injured and officer.

They panhandle, sleep and wander around town and we get additional calls related to them. In one case, a person removed from a train was able to get family to put him up at the hotel until the next morning. The next morning, he was walking around town intoxicated with a large bottle vodka in his hand, and tried getting into someone's house. He ended up at Detox in Madison, which involved several hours of our officer's time for the medical clearance process and transport. We have transported people to the Madison bus stop at either UW Campus or Dutch Mill Road (off Beltline) and officers have paid their own money (which the department reimburses) to get them on their way to avoid these issues, but it is a drain on time and resources. We may only have 1 officer on duty and to take them out of town for that length of time is concerning. We have a meeting set with the Amtrak Police on September 25 to try and get a handle on these issues and determine everyone's course of action moving forward.



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An officer was attempting to remove an uncooperative person from the Borealis. The subject was ignoring the officer's request. The subject lunged at the officer and tackled him, causing a minor injury. The subject was tased, taken into custody and jailed. He was charged with Battery to a Police Officer.

An officer observed reckless driving and an active road rage between 2 vehicles. He attempted to stop them. Both pulled over. One then pulled away and fled. A pursuit began and was terminated in Dane County due to speeds. The vehicle that did stop was later located and the driver issued several citations for the reckless driving and violations the officer observed. The vehicle that led the officer on a pursuit was later identified, as was the driver. We are attempting to locate and arrest him. He is in another county.

A stolen vehicle was reported to be driving in the City of Columbus. It was located by the Columbia County Sheriff's Department traveling on Dix Street and a pursuit ensued. A Columbus officer assisted until the conclusion of the pursuit, in the Town of Hampden, where the vehicle crashed and the driver was taken into custody.

Officers were called to a particular residence in the city 10 times in a 3-week period regarding the behavior of resident towards neighbors, the Amazon delivery driver, and other disorderly behavior. She was arrested on 1 occasion and issued citations on some of the others. She is also being cited for having a Public Nuisance residence due to the cumulative number of police calls and impact of her behavior on the safety and peace of the neighborhood.

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Columbus Police Department
Total CAD Calls Received, by Nature of Call 1

Nature of Call -----	Total Calls Received -----
911 HANG UP	22
ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN	3
ACCIDENT PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	7
ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	2
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	5
BURGLAR ALARM	6
FIRE ALARM	1
MEDICAL ALARM	1
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	10
ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT	1
ANIMAL BITE	1
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENT	2
CHILD ABUSE	1
CITIZEN ASSIST	19
CIVIL	2
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	3
CONTROLLED	10
CIVIL PROCESS	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	9
DEATH INVESTIGATION	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	10



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DOMESTIC ABUSE	2
DRIVING COMPLAINT	7
ELUDING	2
EMS CALL	8
EMS-PNB	1
ESCORT	1
EXTRA PATROL	8
GENERAL FIRE	1
FLEET MAINTENANCE	2
FOOT PATROL	2
FRAUD	2
GAS DRIVE-OFF	2
HARASSMENT	1
ROAD HAZARD	3
HOUSE WATCH	2
JUVENILE INCIDENT	6
KEEP THE PEACE	1
LOST AND FOUND	8
NOISE COMPLAINT	3
OUT WITH PERSON	8
OPEN DOOR	4
ORDINANCE VIOLATION	8
OWI	8
PARKING ENFORCMENT	12
PARKING VIOLATION	12
SECURITY	256
SEX OFFENSE	1
SPECIAL EVENT	4
SPEED BOARD	1
SUSPICIOUS	13
THEFT	3
TIPS/LEADS	1
TRAFFIC STOP	166
UNWANTED PERSON	3
VEH LOCKOUT	4
VEH THEFT	1
WARRANT	2
WEATHER	1
WELFARE	16

Total Calls: 703