



## **COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

November 11, 2024

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

### **RE: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, OCTOBER 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 November 11, 2024:

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

Lieutenant Roger Witthun has submitted his retirement notice, effective January 2, 2025. Lieutenant Witthun has been with the department for approximately 26 years. The position has been recently posted internally and externally until December 7. The Police and Fire Commission will outline the exact process at their next meeting.

One of the officers was severely bitten by a dog during an investigation at a residence, requiring EMS transport and treatment at the hospital. He returned to light duty work a week later and we expect him to be back to full duty soon. There does not appear to be any permanent damage.

Officer Cole Vance graduates from the police academy December 13.

We are additionally currently assessing another person who is currently in the academy with Officer Vance for another agency, for a part time position, for our last full-time vacancy. Lieutenant Witthun's retirement in January will also create an additional vacancy.

We did not offer a job to any of the Public Safety Clerk candidates. The position has been reposted. Bonnie Langsdorf will continue to help us on a part time basis.

### TRAINING:

All officers attended a night shoot at the range in Juneau. Every year we do a night shoot in the fall to stay familiar with the dynamics and challenges a dark environment adds to situations where we may need to use our firearms/rifles. The differences between daytime and nighttime shooting are significant.

### FLEET/EQUIPMENT:

The 2025 squad car has been ordered and Ford has already provided the build date in December. We should see it early January. We are on the list at our equipment installer to be outfitted, who are very backlogged, and hope to have it in service sometime in the spring.

We purchased hard foam helmets that will be placed in each squad once the officers are trained on them at an upcoming department meeting. These helmets were purchased after multiple incidents of persons experiencing a mental health crisis, or becoming violent after being arrested, intentionally banging their heads while in the squad or being transported. These helmets are expected to prevent potential injuries.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS:

On October 26 participated in the national Fall Drug Takeback Day for unused/expired prescription medications. It was held at the Columbus Police Department and I staffed it. That day we collected 78 pounds. Additionally, we had collected 128 pounds in our lobby 24/7 drop box since the spring Takeback event. We transported them to State Patrol Headquarters in De Forest on October 28 and turned them over to the Wisconsin Department of Justice staff, who have a contract to have them incinerated at no cost to participating agencies.

Lieutenant Ward and myself gave a safety and hold up procedures presentation to employees at the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank during an all-employee meeting.

Sergeant Rosecky and Officer Hayes gave a presentation to a high school class on life choices.



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Officer Knoll and Officer Hayes read to children at a local daycare.

Officer Knoll and Officer Hayes gave a building and squad tour to 27 children from Fall River Schools.

Officers were assigned to Trick or Treating and handing out candy. Unfortunately, this year, call volume, including an arrest, impacted the amount of time the officers were able to dedicate to it.

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS:

During the month of August officers issued 79 traffic citations, 32 ordinance citations and 108 warnings.

### NOTES:

On October 1, we arrested a subject from Georgia, who is in the United States on a student Visa, for attempting to scam an 80-year-old woman out of \$60,000. We arrested him when he arrived at the pre-set location. We recovered \$44,100 cash in his vehicle and discovered the same day, prior to coming to Columbus, he scammed elderly people in Iowa and Illinois out of almost \$100,000 cash. We also were able to tie him to another scam incident in Tennessee in June 2024 and recovered evidence in his vehicle from that one as well as through a forensic download of his phone. The agency in Iowa has issued an arrest warrant for him for their case, and I'm working with the Tennessee agency, who will likely do the same. He remains in the Columbia County Jail.

We had multiple domestic abuse incidents this month that involved concerning components. Once incident involved strangulation, another involved dumping gasoline on the kitchen floor and lighting it, and another immediately violated the 72 hour No Contact order in place following his release from jail. The 72 Hour No Contact Prohibition is intended as a cooling off period following arrest.

Earlier this summer I assigned Officer Knoll to a city-wide project of addressing ordinance and zoning code violations city wide. This was to address some abandoned vehicles and other blights or violations. Most violators got into compliance prior to the warning period given to address the issue(s), however a few did not and were issued citations. We still have 1 or 2 that intentionally remain out of compliance. Our efforts and recurring citations for those continue. Our goal is compliance and not citations. I will likely be recommending some tweaks to portions of the zoning code at some point down the road.

I have been working on draft ordinances for disposal of lost, found or abandoned property and vaping.

The lost, found and abandoned property ordinance will allow us to dispose of certain items we store much more efficiently, such as found property without a known owner. We have a large number of accumulated abandoned/found bikes over the last few years topping off the list of items to address.

The vaping ordinance will address the illegal possession of vaping devices by those under age. Vape devices are used not only for nicotine, but also for controlled substances, such as THC. The ordinance will have specific penalties for possession or use on school property.

Both ordinances I am using ones currently used in other communities as the template. I anticipate getting them to City Attorney Johnson for his review in the near future and eventually to the council.



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### CALLS FOR SERVICE:

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

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received
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911 HANG UP	10
ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN	1
ACCIDENT PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	10
ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	1
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	8
BURGLAR ALARM	3
FIRE ALARM	2
MEDICAL ALARM	2
PANIC ALARM	1
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	6
ANIMAL BITE	1
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENT	3
DETOX	2
CITIZEN ASSIST	17
CIVIL	2
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	3
CONTROLLED	4
CIVIL PROCESS	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3
DEATH INVESTIGATION	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	3
DOMESTIC ABUSE	3
DOMESTIC WITH INJURY	1
DRIVING COMPLAINT	19
ELDER ABUSE	1
EMS CALL	19
ERT TRAINING	1
ESCORT	2
EXTRA PATROL	8
FIRE GAS LEAK/CARBON MONOXIDE	1
FOOT PATROL	6
FRAUD	3
HARASSMENT	6
ROAD HAZARD	10
HOUSE WATCH	1
JUVENILE INCIDENT	10
LOST AND FOUND	3
MEDICAL EXAMINER	1
MUTUAL AID	1
NOISE COMPLAINT	1
OUT WITH PERSON	5
OPEN DOOR	4
ORDINANCE VIOLATION	11



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OWI	6
PARKING ENFORCEMENT	11
PARKING VIOLATION	11
PROPERTY DAMAGE	2
RAIL ROAD CROSSING ISSUE	1
SECURITY	277
SLIDE OFF	1
SPECIAL EVENT	8
SUSPICIOUS	16
THEFT	1
TRAFFIC CONTROL	11
TRAFFIC STOP	159
TRAINING	1
TRO/INJ VIOL	1
VIOLATION OF PROBATION/PAROLE	2
WARRANT	3
WELFARE	15

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Total Calls: 727



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TE1995



GSA  
Plating  
Gold





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