



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

August 14, 2024

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

RE: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, JULY 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 August 14, 2024:

	Authorized by Budget	Actual
<u>Sworn Officers</u>		
Full-time sworn police positions:	10	9
Patrol Officer Full time	6	6
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
Officer Joseph Lowe (part time)	02/07/2024
Office Manager Erika Kellar	02/04/1999
Public Safety Bonnie Langsdorf (LTE)	08/12/2024



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PERSONNEL:

Officer Colton Hayes and Officer Cole Vance were sworn in on July 30, 2024 by City Clerk Susan Caine. Officer Hayes had 1 ½ years full time experience with the Poynette Police Department and immediately began his local training. Officer Vance is a former Marine and has no prior law enforcement experience. He started August 5, with a week of orientation before starting the police academy at Madison College on August 12. He will graduate on December 13 and return for a few months of his local training. Both have Associate's Degrees in Police Science/Criminal Justice.

Public Safety Clerk Amanda Kulow resigned effective August 9, 2024. Bonnie Langsdorf, who retired from that position in January 2024 returned August 12 to help until a permanent replacement is found.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

On July 10, Fire Chief Hazeltine and I read books and showed equipment to children at the library as part of their summer reading programs.

I attended a 4th of July Committee meeting at the end of the month as a wrap up to this year's 4th of July celebration.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS:

During the month of June officers issued 76 traffic citations, 42 ordinance citations and 146 warnings.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS:

The homicide that happened in the early morning hours of July 4 dominated our work over the 4th of July forward. We were able to identify and get the suspect into custody within 12 hours of the shooting, in the City of Madison. He was moments away from leaving for Texas. The efforts of my staff, all the other agencies involved, as well as several videos and calls with information from the public all helped bring this case to the successful resolution. This was a team effort, which includes the public and business community. While an arrest has been made, various facets of the investigation continue.

While the homicide investigation was occurring, we had the 4th of July parade to address. That is an event each year is mandatory for all sworn staff to work. With officers keeping the crime scene secure while the State Crime Lab processed the scene, officers doing door knocks for information and/or video footage, including those piecing the information together, and being down 3 positions, I had few officers I could dedicate to the parade, opposed to our usual full staff. We were fortunate on several fronts. Chief Spurbeck from Fall River PD and 2 of his officers offered and came to assist. Our area DNR Warden Pete McCormick contacted us on his own that morning to see if we needed any assistance and we took him up on his offer. Mayor Hammer also asked me what he could do. In addition to himself, he was able to get several DPW and Utilities employees to come in on the 4th on short notice to staff intersections along the parade route to make this a safe and more secure event. The 4th of July committee also put together additional people to help with the parade and getting word out about the detour. Another successful group and community effort.

During the 4th related festivities this year things went very well at the park. There were no major incidents. Working with the 4th committee prior to the events starting, during the homicide, and after, was seamless. They are a very dedicated group of volunteers, who put on a great event year after year.

We had 6 domestic abuse related incidents during the month of July, which is abnormal.



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Someone who lives in another community came to their bank in Columbus and withdrew \$32,600 cash as a result of a phone call she received that was a scam. She returned home with the money and the scammer went to her house and picked it up. That matter was referred to the agency where she lives for additional investigation.

A resident reported she had lost her phone and someone must have found it and removed money from her CashApp account. It was determined her phone was lost in another community and she was referred there.

Officers responded to a call reporting a battery between 2 intoxicated males. On arrival, one party was injured and transported via EMS to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An arrest was made and the suspect was taken to jail.

Officers were dispatched to a downtown bar. It was reported that the bartender was battered by a patron who was asked to leave. Additional investigation revealed after being asked to leave, the male subject pushed the female bartender down to the ground, and struck and kicked her. Other patrons removed him from the bar. The suspect had fled prior to the officer's arrival. He was located the following day in Fall River, arrested and jailed.

Officers conducting walk thru licensing compliance checks of a bar downtown located and identified an underage person present in the place of sale. A citation was issued.

We have begun an initiative around the city to improve the aesthetics of the neighborhoods, enforcing violations of junk, clutter, and specifically abandoned/inoperable vehicles on private property ordinance violations. In 1 case there were 3 vehicles in violation at the same property. We always give parties time to resolve the issue, and in some cases, additional time on top of that before issuance of a citation. This month numerous citations were issued and our efforts have met resistance and reluctance to comply. The efforts will continue.

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Columbus Police Department	
Nature of Call	Total Calls Received
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911 HANG UP	26
ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN	10
ACCIDENT-NON-REPORTABLE	3
ACCIDENT PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	4
ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	3
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	6
BURGLAR ALARM	1
FIRE ALARM	3
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	2
ANIMAL BITE	2
ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE	1
BATTERY	2
BURGLARY	1
DETOX	1
CHILD ABUSE	1
CHILD NEGLECT	1
CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT	2
CITIZEN ASSIST	9
CIVIL	4
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	4
CONTROLLED	6



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CIVIL PROCESS	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	2
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	8
DEATH INVESTIGATION	2
DISABLED VEHICLE	6
DOMESTIC ABUSE	6
DPW	3
DRIVING COMPLAINT	17
EMS CALL	11
ERT CALL	1
ESCORT	1
EXTRA PATROL	1
VEHICLE FIRE	1
FIREWORKS	4
FLEET MAINTENANCE	3
FOOT PATROL	1
FRAUD	2
GAS DRIVE-OFF	1
HARASSMENT	1
ROAD HAZARD	8
HOMICIDE	1
HOUSE WATCH	1
JUVENILE INCIDENT	2
KEEP THE PEACE	1
CALL IN LOBBY	2
LOST AND FOUND	3
NOISE COMPLAINT	1
OUT WITH PERSON	5
OPEN DOOR	2
ORDINANCE VIOLATION	7
OWI	7
PARKING ENFORCMENT	12
PARKING VIOLATION	12
PROPERTY DAMAGE	2
SECURITY	228
SEX OFFENSE	2
SPECIAL EVENT	2
SUSPICIOUS	14
THEFT	5
TIPS/LEADS	1
TRAFFIC CONTROL	2
TRAFFIC STOP	185
TRANSPORT	1
TRESPASS	1
UNWANTED PERSON	3
VEH LOCKOUT	1
WARRANT	1
WEAPONS VIOLATION	1
WEATHER	3
WELFARE	15

Total Calls: 694