

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY BOARD

November 13, 2023

An in-person meeting of the Marquette University Police Department (MUPD) Advisory Board was called to order on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Eckstein Hall, Room 204 at the Marquette University Law School. Due and timely notice of the meeting, including an agenda, were provided by email to each member of the Board in advance of the meeting. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the MUPD Advisory Board website. The meeting was open to the public and information about the meeting was available to anyone who requested it.

Roll Call. Board members attending the meeting were Michael O’Hear, Chair of the Board and Professor, Marquette University Law School and Chris Bartolone, Assistant Director for Facilities Services. Absent were Dr. Meghan Stroshine, Vice Chair of the Board and Associate Professor in Social & Cultural Sciences, Klingler College of Arts and Sciences; Lindsey St. Arnold Bell, Executive Director of Near West Side Partners; and Abbie Moravec, Marquette University Student Government (MUSG) President. Non-Board Members attending the meeting included Edith Hudson, MUPD Chief; Jeff Kranz, Assistant Chief of MUPD; Carrie Peters, MUPD Data Analytics Specialist; and Kevin Conway, Associate Director of University Communication.

Updates on Departmental Activities, Initiatives and Crime Statistics.

1. **TASERs:** MUPD obtained a grant for about \$35,000 from the State of Wisconsin in order to replace the Department’s TASERs, which were in poor condition and beyond their warranty period.
2. **Promotions in Communications Area:** MUPD promoted two communications officers to the position of “lead communications officer.” This is a new position in the Department. It is expected that creating and filling these positions will result in better supervision of communications operations. The new lead officers are also expected to help with needed communications equipment upgrades.
3. **Police Aides:** MUPD has made a conditional offer of employment to a May 2023 high school graduate to work as a police aide. This is a position for recent high school graduates who are interested in careers in policing. Police aides can eventually be hired as regular MUPD officers. MUPD currently has one aide. In addition to the pending offer, it is expected that another offer will be made soon.
4. **Community Engagement:**
 - Faith in Blue (national event for police and faith-based organizations)—on October 7, MUPD personnel joined members of faith-based groups on a walk from the AMU to Norris Park, followed by a kickball game.
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness—on October 7, 16 MUPD members participated in NAMI’s annual fundraising walk.
 - MUPD partnered with the On Your Marq program and the MU men’s and women’s basketball teams to assemble kits to help neurodivergent individuals with calming and focus; some kits are available at the MUPD office.
 - MUPD is supporting MU’s annual blood-drive competition with Butler University.
5. **Crime Statistics/Trends:** Data Specialist Peters reported the following crime statistics:

Marquette University Police Department January 1 through October 31, 2021/2022/2023					
Crimes Reported:	2021	2022		2023	
		MPD	MUPD	MPD	MUPD
<i>Personal Crimes</i>					
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0
Robbery	11	4	11	8	13
Theft from Person	2	0	1	1	2
Assault/Battery	82	7	85	6	80
Sexual Assault/Rape	7	0	2	1	8
Total:	103	12	99	16	103
		111		119	
<i>Property Crimes</i>					
Burglary	40	1	17	1	47
Thefts (inc. retail)	307	1	288	0	249
Motor Vehicle Thefts	132	22	103	13	87
Arson	1	2	0	0	1
Total:	480	26	408	14	384
		434		398	

Discussion of crime trends included the following:

- There has been a recent uptick in car thefts, especially around the east end of campus. Thieves continue to focus on Kia and Hyundai vehicles. In a few instances, Clubs were forced off of the steering wheel. Nonetheless, individuals who drive these cars are still encouraged to use the Club.
- Increased burglary numbers are in part a result of better video surveillance, which in some cases helps to confirm an unlawful entry into a structure. Subsequent theft offenses are then classified as burglaries rather than simple thefts.
- Burglaries have largely occurred in apartment buildings and/or involved the theft of packages. It might help if MU had a convenient, centralized location for package deliveries for students, in lieu of deliveries to apartment buildings. Mr. Bartolone will follow up.

6. Mental Health Calls: In September 2022, MUPD began more closely tracking time spent by officers in responding to calls regarding mentally ill individuals. There seems to be a concerning upward trend. In September 2023, time spent on these calls was 28% higher than in September 2022. In October 2023, the amount of time (305 hours) was 98% higher than in the previous October. This time is in addition to the time spent by MUPD's dedicated Behavioral Health Unit. The Unit is running into difficulties in finding available services for mentally ill individuals who would benefit from them.

Semi-Annual Report on Citizen Complaints.

Assistant Chief Kranz indicated that MUPD has responded to three citizen complaints so far in 2023.

- In January, a homeless shelter complained that MUPD personnel did not follow the shelter's protocols in attempting to drop off an individual at the shelter. After investigation, MUPD determined that the complaint was baseless.
- In August, an individual who was removed by MUPD personnel from the Milwaukee Central Library at the request of Library staff complained about mistreatment. After investigation, MUPD determined that the complaint was unfounded.
- In September, there was a complaint regarding MUPD's response to a vehicle accident involving an MUPD member. The investigation of this matter is still pending.

In addition to these complaints, Assistant Chief Kranz noted two additional matters that were handled outside the normal MUPD citizen complaint process. First, a faculty member made a bias complaint regarding MUPD that was handled by Marquette's HR Department. HR found no bias. Second, the undersigned Chair passed along to the MUPD a concern from a criminal defense lawyer regarding MUPD's treatment of one of the lawyer's clients. MUPD investigated the case and determined that nothing happened that warranted disciplinary action.

7. Public Comments: None

8. Other Business: Assistant Chief Kranz described a recent incident in which MUPD officers responded to a call regarding a potentially dangerous mentally ill individual. In knocking on the person's door, officers positioned themselves carefully so as to minimize the risk of a possible confrontation. Although the person was carrying a firearm, officers were able to avoid the need to use force. Eventually, the person was talked into surrendering. Assistant Chief Kranz presented this incident as an illustration of thoughtful, effective policing by MUPD officers.

9. Adjournment: The Chair concluded the meeting and adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Hear
Chair, MUPD Advisory Board