

Groveport Police Department



City Council Report
Mayor Lance Westcamp
Groveport City Council

Casey M. Adams, Chief of Police
cadams@groveport.org

Training, Officer Activities and monthly report information: **June 2024**

Calls to Service & Incident Reports			Number	Calls to Service & Incident Reports		Number
Franklin CO SO Mutual Aid			3	Accidents		12
Madison TWP PD Mutual Aid			3	House Watches		2
Madison Twp. Fire Mutual Aid			0	Public Assist		20
Obetz PD Mutual Aid			1	Domestic Violence/Dispute		6
CPD/ CFD/Other Agencies Mutual Aid			1	Burglary Related Call(s)		1
911 Hang Up			9	OVI Arrest		1
Residential/Business Alarm Response			73	Larceny/Robbery		6
Animal Complaints			5	Weapon Related Calls (Gun/Knife/ETC)		4
Mileage			18,734	Missing Persons/Juveniles		3
Call Party by Phone			10	Disabled Vehicle/Stranded Motorists		8
Sheriff's Dispatches/Self-Initiated Calls			224 / 375	School Related Dispatched Calls		0
Follow-Up on Previous Call to Service			8	Stolen/Unauthorized Use		0
Day Shift % of Calls to Service			27%	Suspicious Peron(s)/Vehicle(s)		31
Afternoon Shift % of Calls to Service			34%	Threats/Harassment Calls to Service		5
Mid-Night Shift % of Calls to Service			39%	Vandalism		3
Investigate Unknown Complaint			4	Suicide (attempts)/ DOA/Mental Health Call/Overdose Related Calls to Service		4
Traffic Citations/Traffic Stops			65 / 120	Sex Related Crimes		1
Training Hours			96	Arrests made		17
Referrals (FCCS)			0	Juvenile Complaints		5
Drunk/Disorderly Conduct Related			3	Assault/Fight Calls to Service		4
Neighborhood Complaint			1	Open Door/Building Call to Service		2
Calls to Service/Incident Reports			457 / 123	Other: Criminal Trespass Order		2
Traffic Enforcement	Semi-Truck Traffic			Prepared By: Sgt. John Westhoven Day Shift Patrol 6am to 2pm		
Location	Total Time	Date Start	Date End	Total Semi-Trucks Stopped	Semi-Trucks not Violating City Law	Citations Issued
Main Street	26.5 hrs	June 1 st	June 30 th	31	30	0

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School Resource Officer Position-

During the month of June, I posted within the Groveport Police Department Patrol Division the opening for a second School Resource Officer who will be handling and patrolling the elementary and middle schools as their primary duties within the City of Groveport. This position will also act as a substitute officer at the Groveport Madison High School if Ptl. Kurt Boso is off due to sick leave, vacation leave, or training. The second School Resource Officer will also assist in Calls to Service at the new Groveport Madison Cruiser Excel building located at the old AEP Computer center at 4500 S. Hamilton Road.

Ptl. Shellie Rimmer has been selected for this School Resource Officer, which will begin on August 1st, and give her time to prepare for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Ptl. Rimmer understands that her new assignment is different from Ptl. Boso's duties when it comes to being more mobile and visible in the other schools outside the high school. Ptl. Rimmer will be moving around to all the buildings throughout her assigned duty day, interact with the students, staff and parents in the schools. I have also advised Mr. Paul Smathers that I would like to see Ptl. Rimmer to begin instructing the Groveport Elementary Crossing Guards before the school year begins, along with handling the traffic complaints that have been brought to our attention on Main Street.

Ptl. Rimmer has been advised that she will be permitted to purchase and wear as her daily uniform different color polo shirts, cargo pants, but she has to be identifiable as a Groveport Police Officer with her daily uniform appearance.

Training-

Sgt. John Westhoven successfully completed the 120-hour Police Executive Leadership College supervisor course that was hosted by the Ohio Association Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation.

Ptl. Forrest Benner completed the 24 hour Shotgun Instructor Course. With this certification, the Groveport Police Department now has 4 GPD staff members that have pistol and shotgun instructor certification to conduct yearly qualifications with our staff.

Sgt. Sam Yockey will be attending Rifle Instructor Course in early July. Sgt. Yockey will be the second Rifle Instructor for the Groveport Police Department, and permit us to have a firearms instructor at the range during any designated time where officers are required to qualify annually.



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Patrol and Investigation Activity-

In June, the Dollar General located on Groveport Road @ Green Pointe Drive had an individual who robbed the store during the evening hours on a weekday, in mid-June. Our officers were on scene within 60 seconds, called out the Detective Bureau to process the scene, and within a matter of a couple hours Ptl. Kevin Chavez observed the suspect vehicle on Bixby Road at State Route 317 and arrested the suspect on unrelated criminal warrants out of Franklin County. Our Detective Bureau spent the next few days conducting follow-up investigation that included calling in the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and other suburb agencies Drone Operators and Equipment to survey areas where the suspect may have hid after the robbery. This survey by Drone Operators and Drones Aerial Units conducted searches for evidence in fields around the 3000 block of Bixby Road. Sgt. Josh Gilbert informed me that this Drone Technology is beneficial to our investigations to search large areas where roads and paths are not prevalent. Sgt. Gilbert also advised that our suspect(s) are linked to other robberies in the City of Columbus, and we will be working with their investigators to build one large robbery case, rather than smaller separate cases.

Ptl. Josh Dillard and Ptl. Rob Ross have switched shift assignments; this will give each officer a different exposure to other shifts and activity. We anticipating that this switch will be for several weeks, but we are looking at another shift change in early August with Ptl. Shellie Rimmer vacating her Day Shift assignment to take on her new assignment in the schools, Ptl. Tisha Pack retirement in mid-June, and shift assignments opening.

Ptl. Tisha Pack retired in mid-June after 16 years with the Groveport Police Department. As we have seen on social media, her retirement has not gone unnoticed by the community, and our community will miss her. We have begun the hiring process to replace her position, and it is Mayor Westcamp's and my hope to have that position replaced by late August/early September. The hiring candidates that we have interviewed are not experienced from the lateral entry candidate pool; they are young and most likely straight out of the police academy.

4th of July activities compared to 2023 were very calm when it came to patrolling the Groveport Community. We had no arrests that were related to the 4th of July celebration, the outside fireworks were still prevalent, and we found it hard to enforce due to a lack of probable cause and finding the specific location where people were igniting the fireworks. There are still some issues we can address differently compared to this past year, but we were pleased that no major incidents that occurred over the long weekend.

2024 Patrol Car Upfitting-

In regards to the new patrol cars that have arrived, Parr Public Safety has advised it would be late Summer to early Fall before they could begin the upfitting of the equipment and placing the first of the vehicles in service. Due to the significant delay in Parr's service, I have found and contracted with Valor Public Safety Upfitting to begin the service immediately, and it is our hope to have 3 of 4 patrol cars in service within the month. We are still waiting delivery on the 4th car by Fall 2024.



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Captain Kurt Blevins Report-

NOTABLE: As you already are familiar, June brought us the retirement of Officer Tish Pack, who has served our department with unwavering dedication and professionalism. Officer Pack's wealth of experience and no-nonsense approach to her duties will be sorely missed. Throughout her tenure, she has exemplified the highest standards of service, leaving an indelible mark on the city of Groveport and this Department.

As we wish all the best to Officer Pack, I am heartened by the enthusiasm displayed by the potential new hires. Their eagerness to contribute and learn is a testament to the future of our department. I recognize that recent retirements have led to a rapid turnover, and I must commend Chief Adams for skillfully navigating the challenges that accompany such transitions. His leadership ensures continuity and stability during this dynamic period.

Our department continues to uphold the values of integrity, community service, and excellence that Officer Pack embodied throughout her career. We wish her a fulfilling retirement and express our gratitude for her dedicated service.

JUNE POLICY REPORT:

Policy Addition: General Operation Section 300 / Policy # 341

Generative Artificial Intelligence Use: This new policy has been developed to provide guidance to the Groveport Police Department using generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) systems and information. Highlights include:

- *Policy:* communicates the benefits and risks of GenAI systems for law enforcement use.
- *Ai Coordinator:* designates certain responsibilities to a member.
- *Use of Generative Ai:* outlines the limitations for the use of GenAI systems and AI-generated content.
- *Privacy Considerations:* explains when protected information may be put into GenAI systems.
- *Prohibited Use:* outlines the restrictions on the use of GenAI systems and information.

NOTE: This policy was peer reviewed and recommended by Patrol Lieutenant Josh Short

The following Policy Sections were reviewed and distributed by my office for required department wide scenario based daily training, called Daily Training Bulletins for June 2024:

- Policy 504 Impaired Driving / *504.6 Refusals*
- Policy 805 Animal Control / *805.10 Deceased Animals*
- Policy 402 Briefing / *402.4 Retention of Briefing and Roll Call Training Records*
- Policy 408 Civil Commitments / *408.9 Firearms and Other Weapons*
- Policy 428 Civil Disputes / *428.4.1 Standby Requests*
- Policy 1015 Commendations and Awards / *1015.4.2 Community Member Documentation*



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- Policy 1008 Communicable Diseases / *1008.5.3 Medical Consultation, Evaluation and Treatment*
- Policy 303 Control Devices and Techniques / *303.7 Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Guidelines*
- Policy 311 Temporary Custody of Juveniles / *311.11.1 Locked enclosures*
- Policy 204 Electronic Mail / *204.1 Purpose and Scope*
- Policy 604 Eyewitness Identification / *604.8 Documentation*
- Policy 407 Response to Bomb Calls / *407.4.2 Other County or Municipal Facility or Property*
- Policy 427 First Amendment Assemblies / *427.3.1 Photographs and Video Recordings*
- Policy 424 Foot Pursuits / *424.3 Decision to Pursue*
- Policy 302 Handcuffing and Restraints / *302.3.3 Restraints of Juveniles*
- Policy 411 Immigration Violations / *411.3 Victims and Witnesses*
- Policy 600 Investigation and Prosecution / *600.8 Investigative Use of Social Media and Internet Sources*
- Policy 418 Mobile Audio & Video / *418.4.3 When Activation is Required*
- Policy 324 Reserve & Auxiliary Members / *Policy Compliance *Currently not in use*
- Policy 701 Personal Communication Devices / *701.8 Use While Driving*
- Policy 422 Public Recording of Law Enforcements Activity / *422.2 Supervisors Responsibilities*
- Policy 703 Vehicle Use / *703.3.5 MDT - Mobile Data Terminal*
- Policy 429 Suspicious Activity Reporting / *429.4 Reporting and Investigation*
- Policy 300 Use of Force / *300.4 Deadly Force Applications*
- Policy 300 Use of Force / *300.3 Perspective (Reasonableness)*
- Policy 319 Standards of Conduct / *319.5 Causes for Discipline (Intoxicants)*
- Policy 307 Vehicle Pursuits / *307.3.1 When to Initial a Pursuit (Primary Concerns)*
- Policy 300 Use of Force / *300.3.3 Pain Compliance Techniques*

Curious or Questions about a particular policy? Feel free to contact me with your concern or question

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Statement on Groveport Police Department's Commitment to OCLEAC Standards

The Groveport Police Department takes great pride in its membership within the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification (OCLEAC).

Our commitment to the Ohio Collaborative extends beyond mere membership; it underscores our dedication to maintaining the highest standards of compliance. We recognize that adherence to the Collaboratives requirements is essential for effective law enforcement practices. Key aspects of this partnership include:

1. High Standards of Compliance:

- Groveport PD diligently upholds the rigorous standards set forth by OCLEAC. These standards encompass training, policies, and operational procedures.
- Our officers undergo regular training to ensure alignment with OCLEAC guidelines.

2. Core Policy Review:

- A critical component of our partnership involves continuous review of core policies. These policies serve as the bedrock of effective law enforcement.
- Every month, our officers engage in policy quizzes and thoroughly review key policies to maintain familiarity and compliance.

By adhering to the Ohio Collaborative standards, we demonstrate our commitment to professionalism, transparency, and community trust. Below are June's review of critical policies which are mandatory as part of the OCLEAC's requirements. A partial policy statement is provided to you for reference. Officers are required to thoroughly review and comprehend the entire policy, encompassing the main policy, scope, and other relevant sections essential for understanding individual policy guidelines, standards, and procedural rules.

- ***Policy 100: Law Enforcement Authority:*** *It is the policy of the Groveport Police Department to limit its members to only exercise the authority granted to them by law. While this department recognizes the power of peace officers to make arrests and take other enforcement action, officers are encouraged to use sound discretion in the enforcement of the law. This department does not tolerate abuse of law enforcement authority.*
- ***Policy 103: Policy Manual:*** *Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized that the work of law enforcement is not always predictable and circumstances may arise which warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members*



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of this department under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

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- ***Policy 200: Organizational Structure and Responsibility:*** *The Organizational structure of the Department is designed to create an efficient means to accomplish the mission and goals and to provide for the best possible service to the public. The Chief of Police is responsible for administering and managing the Groveport Police Department. There are three bureaus in the Police Department:*
 - *Administration Bureau*
 - *Patrol Bureau*
 - *Detective Bureau*
- ***Policy 202 Emergency Management Plan:*** *The City has prepared, in compliance with State of Ohio requirements, an Emergency Management Plan (ORC § 5502.26, ORC § 5502.27 and ORC § 5502.271). This plan is for the guidance and use by all employees in the event of a major disaster, civil disturbance, mass arrest or other emergency event. The plan provides for a strategic response by all employees and assigns specific responsibilities in the event the plan is activated.*
- ***Policy 300 Use of Force:*** *The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.*
 - *Officers must understand, and have a true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.*
 - *The Groveport Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.*

** There were no policy updates this month to report.*

OBJECTIVES: As we enter July 2024, I am directing my efforts toward the development and enhancement of our department's Procedures Manual. This endeavor is no less significant than our existing Policy Manual. Under Chief Adams' guidance and support, I am committed to dedicating increased focus and effort to this critical resource. Allow me to elaborate on the importance of a concise Procedures Manual that complements our Policy Manual:

- ***Clarity and Consistency:*** *The Procedures Manual serves as a detailed guide for officers, outlining step-by-step processes and protocols. By providing clear instructions, it ensures consistent practices across our department.*



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- *Operational Efficiency:* Well-defined procedures streamline our daily operations. When officers understand their roles and responsibilities, they can execute tasks efficiently, minimizing errors and delays.
- *Risk Mitigation:* A comprehensive Procedures Manual helps mitigate risks by addressing potential pitfalls and providing guidance on handling various situations. It ensures that officers adhere to best practices and legal requirements.
- *Training and Onboarding:* New recruits and officers transitioning to different roles rely on the Procedures Manual during training. It accelerates their learning curve and ensures they align with established standards.
- *Adaptability:* As our department evolves, so do our procedures. Regular updates to the manual allow us to adapt to changing circumstances, technological advancements, and community needs.

In summary, the Procedures Manual is a vital companion to our Policy Manual. Together, they form the backbone of our operational excellence and commitment to serving our community effectively.

This is part of my dedication to upholding our standards and ensuring the safety and well-being of our Groveport community.

Shift Assignment: Afternoon Shift 2pm to 10pm (Sgt. Sam Yockey)

Monthly Highlights:

- Arrested three people with active warrants out of traffic encounters
- Hit-Skip Accident involving multiple vehicles
- Assault at Kroger-Both parties refused to file charges
- Assault at Warehouse-Pending charges
- Possible internet crimes against children case-Still an ongoing investigation by the Detective Bureau
- A driver of a traffic stop failed to ID himself and cooperate so he was arrested but released on a summons
- We had five Domestic Violence related calls and three of those incidents resulted in an arrest. This is a higher number than normal for Domestic Violence arrest on a typical month for one shift.
- We had a robbery at Dollar General involving a firearm. Due to Ofc. Chavez's great observation skills he was able to locate the suspect later in the shift. The male was arrested without incident and the Detective Bureau was able to gather enough evidence to charge him.

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Detective Bureau

Monthly Case Statistics

June 2024



Total Cases Assigned to the Bureau in June, 2024:

12 - Cases

Flock Cameras

Plate Reads Summary

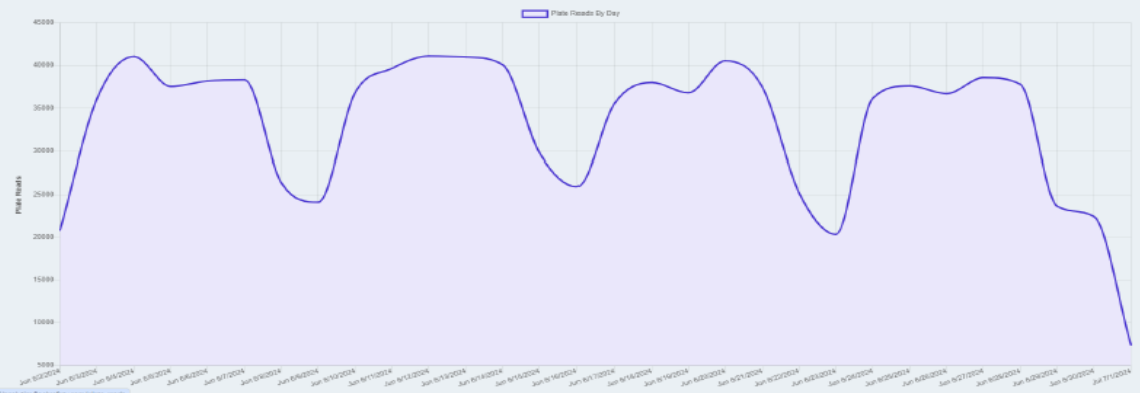
Total Plate Reads:
991,139

DOWNLOAD CSV

Jun 2 - Jul 1

Devices (10)

Search



Flock License Plate Reads:

Total license plate reads for June - 991,139-Reads

Flock License Plate Alerts:

Total plate alerts in June - 215-alerts

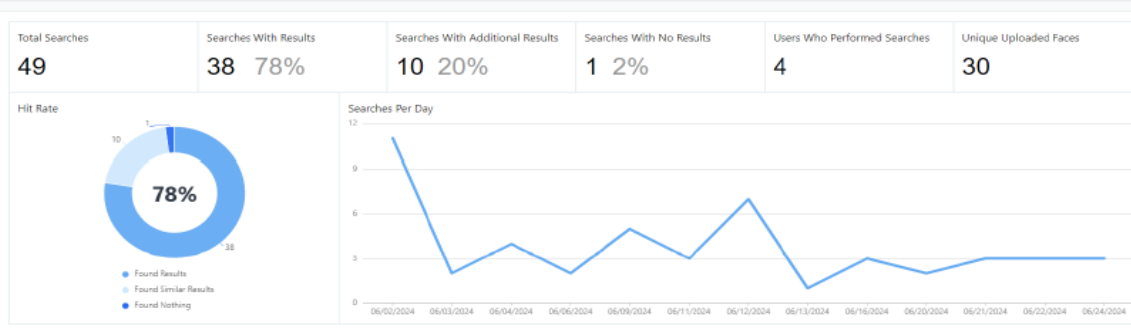
The City of Groveport owns 10-Flock cameras currently, but as a part of Flock we currently have access to 5,905 cameras nationwide.

- It would be my recommendation that the City of Groveport begins planning and budgeting to add three additional Flock cameras in 2025. Three additional cameras would cover the current gaps and allow most all vehicles entering our city to be scanned. The locations for these cameras would be on Bixby Rd at U.S. 33, on Richardson Rd near Groveport Rd, and on Spiegel Dr just east of Alum Creek Dr.
- Each month the amount of Flock cameras we have access to locally and nationwide increases. The Flock cameras have been crucial in solving crimes in our city.

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Clearview Facial Recognition



Clearview Facial Recognition Scans – 49 -searches in June, 2024 with 78% identifying rate.

- Currently we have 5-users on the department using facial recognition. Someone from each shift on the department has capabilities to perform searches. 5-users is what our plan allows with Clearview. Facial recognition and AI technology has a vital role in the future of law enforcement.
- The Groveport Detective Bureau processes countless search warrants and subpoenas each month to complete our cases. With these court orders being needed for nearly every investigation, it would be very difficult to keep an exact number processed each month.

Notable Cases:

- Sgt. Gilbert and Detective Fairman are assisting the U.S. Marshals Task-Force with locating two males wanted for murder. Both males are accused of killing a man in September, 2021 in Columbus, Ohio and then taking flights to Turkey the following day. One of the male's locations is believed to be known now. The information has been provided to the U.S. Marshals.
- Detectives have begun investigating the theft of around 149-vending machines from a local business. The theft is believed to be internal and at this time is ongoing. The company estimates their loss around \$120,000.
- An indictment was filed on a Columbus male who was working at a local warehouse. The male was a CDL semi-truck driver who is accused of stealing over 100-bottles of liquor off his trucks, valued at \$4,000.
- Detectives are assisting Reynoldsburg Police Department with several "Skimmers" that were found at their Walmart. Skimmers are placed on the self-checkouts at stores and capture your credit card information. Sgt. Gilbert received skimmer forensics training from the Secret Service.



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- Detectives have asked Franklin County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Unit to assist in extracting data from multiple devices. A Groveport man is accused of downloading juvenile pornographic images as well as attempting to exploit juveniles on the popular app, Discord. This investigation is ongoing.
- Detectives and patrol have worked very hard to solve an aggravated robbery at the Dollar General. The Columbus male has been charged with Aggravated Robbery and is awaiting indictment by the grand jury. The Flock cameras and intersection cameras played a major role in solving this crime. Cell phone data also places the Columbus male on scene of the crime.
- Detectives are working a large construction material theft ring. The male suspects from Cleveland, Dominican Republic and Pennsylvania have been stealing construction materials and selling them at a much lower cost. A Groveport warehouse became the victim of over \$20,000 in fencing material being stolen by the group. The group have hit countless times across the entire east coast. Suspects have been identified and additional data is being analyzed still. This investigation is ongoing.

Training

No formal training in June, 2024.

Electronic Examinations

As technology continues to grow, the Detective Bureau solves many cases with digital forensics. The month of June, 2024 was no exception. Detectives rely on other agencies to extract data from devices for us, due to not having the equipment. In June the Franklin County Sheriff's Office processed 6-electronic devices for us and the Columbus Police Department processed-1. These 7-devices were done on exigent circumstances where data was needed immediately. Additional device requests were also made.

Background Investigations for New Hire Applicants

The Detective Bureau has been busy conducting background investigations for new hire applicants. This is a very time-consuming process for the bureau. Numerous applicants have been eliminated and we are down to four-applicants. Detectives conducted four CVSA (lie detector) exams for the applicants.

Criminal Activity Trends

The major criminal trend the City of Groveport dealt with in the month of June was fraud. Almost all the fraud is through email, cell phone or various apps. Often these suspects have masked their identity with several layers of digital protection. The downloading of juvenile pornographic images has also seen a sharp increase in 2024. This could be mainly due to increase in technology for the suspects and detection methods for law enforcement.