

Groveport Police Department



City Council Report
Mayor Lance Westcamp
Groveport City Council

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Training, Officer Activities and monthly report information: **March 2022**

MUTUAL AID CALLS			Number	REPORTED OFFENSES	Number
Franklin CO SO			0	Accidents	14
Madison TWP PD			9	Assaults	6
Madison Twp. Fire			2	Burglaries	2
Obetz PD			1	Domestic Disputes	3
CPD/ CFD/Other Agencies			4	Domestic Violence	4
Public Assistance			2	OVI and alcohol issues	2
				Theft Related/ Robberies	16
House Watches			2	Weapon Related Calls	3
Mileage			17,677	Missing Persons/Juveniles	1
				Narcotic Related Offenses	0
Sheriff's Dispatches/Self-Initiated Calls			189 / 373	School Related Dispatched Calls	21
Busiest Day			Wednesday Thursday	Stolen/Unauthorized Use	1
A – Reports Taken – 59 Reports			15%	Parking	18
B – Reports Taken – 92 Reports			33%	Threats	8
C – Reports Taken – 27 Reports			52%	Vandalism	2
Total Reports taken			178 Reports	Suicide (attempts)/ DOA	2
Traffic Citations 55 Violations			45 Citations	Sex Related Crimes	6
Training Hours			78 Hours	Arrests made	14
Referrals (FCCS)			1	Juvenile Complaints	6
Groveport Madison School District Criminal Reports			15	Groveport Madison School District Non-Criminal Reports	6
Speed Trailer				Speed Trailer	
Location	Limit	Date Start	Date End	Total vehicles	Highest Speed
None		NA			NA
None		NA			NA



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Media Events- Groveport Police Department has received a lot of positive press coverage between the Groveport Messenger Newspaper article by Rick Palsgrove, and WBNS 10 TV Kevin Landers Investigative Report on Catalytic Converter Thefts and the indictments of several suspects who committed the theft offenses in Groveport. This press coverage has also brought a lot of attention to our agency from the Central Ohio Area, and outside Ohio in regards to how Det. Josh Gilbert conducted his investigation by being patient and creative in the techniques to identify and charge the individuals responsible for over \$1.7 million dollars in damage and loss of property to our community. Det. Gilbert was also invited by Ohio Representative Bob Young (Green County) to testify before the Ohio House Committee on Law Enforcement Affairs in regards House Bill 408 on the Sale of Catalytic Converters. After testifying at the Ohio House on April 6th, Rep. Richard Brown (Canal Winchester) stopped by the Groveport Police Department to speak with Det. Gilbert on his investigation, and to also voice his support for House Bill 408. Rep. Brown did paint a picture of a lengthy process to this House Bill, and getting it enacted into law after reaching the Governor's Office once it is voted on by both chambers of the State Legislature.





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Ohio Collaborative Update- As previously noted in my City Council Notes, the Groveport Police Department has been certified in Group 1 & 2 of the Ohio Collaborative, and we are awaiting approval on certification on Group 3. These groups are based on the Governor's Executive Directive on minimum standards when it comes to Policy and Procedures for law enforcement organizations.

Ohio Awards Certification to the Groveport Police Department for Adopting Standards

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Executive Director Nicole Dehner announced today that the Groveport Police Department (Franklin County) has adopted and implemented state standards established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

There are 573 agencies that are certified, and 8 that are in the process of becoming certified by meeting standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and agency recruitment and hiring. Additionally, more than 29,895 officers (representing over 86 percent of all law enforcement officers in Ohio, including most of Ohio's metropolitan areas) are employed by an agency that is involved in some form of the certification process.

The standards are the first of their kind in Ohio and were developed and established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board as part of the state's efforts to strengthen community and police relations.

The state has partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to help certify Ohio's nearly 900 law enforcement agencies on a process to ensure that they are in compliance with Ohio's new standards. The complete list of agencies who have and have not been certified can be found at:

<http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/>



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Equipment Evaluation- Currently we are utilizing CIVICA CMI Reporting System that has been in place since 2004, the past couple years we have started to observe a negative change in their customer service and software upgrades, and there have been many challenges to getting the reporting system to work at it previously high standards when we first started out with CIVICA CMI. We have now researching the MATRIX RMS to provide our Reporting Software needs (Madison Township Police Department and Obetz Police Department is also exploring moving from CMI to the MATRIX), this MATRIX RMS is currently being utilized by seven other law enforcement agencies that contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department for dispatching, and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department is offering to pay for the services after we would pay for the conversion of our current data to the MATRIX and training costs to utilize the MATRIX.

When it come to the upgrades to the MDT-CAD Software through the Franklin County Communication Center, these upgrades have been in the works since 2014, and after a thorough evaluation process, Franklin County has decided to proceed with Motorola Premiere One MDT-CAD System. Chief Jim Gilbert from Franklin County Sheriff's Office advised that the new system should be up and running within the next few months for testing, and fully implemented within 12 to 18 months. The new system will be focused on GPS Locations for dispatching call for service and locating officers through their Mobile Data Terminal GPS coordinates and our radio GPS locators, and this will be a benefit for officer safety when an officer cannot be located immediately. Another positive to the system will be giving our police administrative staff updates when critical incidents occur, these live time updates will be via text message and email notifications. This system will administrative staff to log into the MDT/CAD application with our Smartphone devices.

There are costs to both the new MATRIX Reporting System and the MDT-CAD System, the initial estimates to converting our current reports over into the MATRIX Reporting System is estimated to cost somewhere between \$15,000 to \$85,000, with a upfront training cost of additional \$10,000. We are attempting to obtain a more accurate cost at this point and time, but it seems that there is a negotiation between the current vendor (CMI) and the potential new vendor (MATRIX) on computer programming issues when it comes to the conversion. When it comes to the MDT-CAD System costs, there have been no dollar amount figures discussed, but the anticipation is that we will be paying higher Dispatch/Call to Service fees when it comes to the MDT-CAD System.



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New Assignments for GPD Officer- Ptl. Shellie Rimmer and I sat down with a Senior Field Agent from the United States Secret Service, the Groveport Police Department has been asked to become a member of the Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF) and Cyber Fraud Task Force (CFTF). This Federal Law Enforcement Task Force differs from previous task force memberships we have been part of in the past years. The Task Force keeps the member assigned to the task force in the home agency's jurisdiction the entire time, except when the member is receiving mandated training at the Cyber Security Training Facility in Alabama. All training pertaining to this task force is paid in full by the federal government (Flight, Room and Boarding, and Rental Vehicle). Once the task force member receives the mandated minimal training, the Groveport Police Department will receive computer/electronic equipment from the United States Secret Service to conduct forensic investigation involving electronic devices such as: Laptop Computers, Hard Drives, Cell Phones, and any other type of electronic device that can store information within a device.

I consulted with Mayor Lance Westcamp and discussed the entrance into the ECFT/CFTF Task Force, and we believe it would be extremely beneficial to the City of Groveport to becoming a member, and take advantage of this free equipment issued to our agency in order to help process and hopefully solve these new age electronic device crimes plaguing our society. We also agreed the Ptl. Shellie Rimmer is an excellent choice to becoming the initial member of this task force from our agency, her military background and security clearance, along with her knowledge of computer electronic devices give her a leg up over other candidates entering this task force. We were also advised that we can add additional members in the future, and any financial forfeitures from criminal activity can allow us to receive a portion of the money forfeited during the criminal investigation.



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Police History Exhibit- Ptl. Ernie Bell has worked hard with the staff of the Groveport Townhall to properly display the History of the Groveport Police Department artifacts that he has collected over the years. The display has drawn a lot of attention, and positive feedback from the visitors looking to take in a little history of the City of Groveport and our police department. This exhibit is the perfect backdrop for the "Coffee with a Cop" that Public Affairs Director Jessica-Reeves-Wyke has organized and advertised for the public to come in and visit the history display and speak with our officers.

The first "Coffee with a Cop" was well attended on April 1st at the Townhall. Captain Blevins among others spoke to how much better this event is organized and attended by our citizens ranging from the school age kids to our citizens who can remember a lot if the history of our police department. Having a location where our visitors can easily attend makes a difference to making sure our police department is accessible to our citizens and visitors to the Groveport Community. I look forward to the upcoming Fridays at the Townhall, but I would like to carry this forward at other locations such as the Rarey's Port or Wirt's Grove establishments.





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Equipment Upgrades and Expenditures- Det. Josh Gilbert has recently taken on more responsibility in the police department, one of the new responsibilities is the Property Room Manager. As part of that responsibility, Det. Gilbert has reorganized and begun to receive permission from the courts to destroy and/or take possession of property that is no longer of use to investigations and/or court proceedings. Part of this property was several bicycles recovered over the past years, and these bicycles were turned over to GOODWILL. GOODWILL will restore the bicycles to a safe operation in order to donate the bicycles to children and adults in need of these bicycles.

The police department has also accumulated several firearms in the property room as part of criminal investigations. Det. Gilbert discovered that 10 of the firearms were cleared by the courts to be turned over to our police department as part of the final disposition in the criminal case, and we are able to trade them into an authorized dealer, utilize them for departmental use, or have them destroyed. We were able to trade these rifles and handguns into Vance's Shooter Supply and obtain credit for their value over \$1,100. The Groveport Police Department is taking advantage of this program and now has begun to trade in these firearms and obtain Glock 43x 9mm semi-auto pistols that our Detective Bureau will be able to carry once they arrive, and the detectives qualify with the firearm. Along with these new handguns, we were able to take possession of ammunition from prior criminal cases that have been resolved, and we have over 3,000 rounds of .223 rifle rounds that will be utilized for training and qualifications.

Finally, Obetz Police Department has offered to let us utilize their incinerator for evidence, and we are able to destroy a large amount of illegal narcotics and prescription medications that was confiscated during previous arrests, or turned over to us for safekeeping. We have received an open invitation to utilize Obetz Police Department's incinerator for any destruction of drug material or paraphernalia, which has been a hurdle we have had to work through over the past few years, and this process of destroying drug material gives Det. Gilbert a tool to free up space in our property room that can become overloaded with evidence.



Groveport Police Department

Lt. Josh Short-

New Officer

Jason Huston spent most of the month on 2nd shift is, according to his coach Ernie Bell, progressing acceptably. He will be moving to 3rd shift in mid-April.

Patrol Issues

Sgt Yockey and the 2nd shift crew performed a target enforcement during a week following a complaint of rampant speed violations in Elmont Pl. Those officers spent over 3 hours total time in stationary observation and made 5 traffic stops. Sgt Yockey does not feel that speeding is an overwhelming problem in that area at this time. 2nd shift also addressed a complaint about a house being a drug house by monitoring and stopping a vehicle coming from the house after what looked to be a drug deal. Marijuana was found in the car during a search.

Training

Sgt Westhoven and Lt Short attended Enhanced Sports Venue and Event Evacuation training conducted by county Emergency Management Assoc. This two day course focused on active threats occurring at large gatherings and how to handle/evacuate.

Other

On March 19 we finally got to attend a memorial service for Chief Portier. The service was very well attended by our officers as well as his Pickerington PD family and close friends and relatives. Lt Short helped Eastland Career Center conduct two separate active shooter response drills during the month. ECC's new director of security, Curtese Poole, has been very proactive in upgrading the school's emergency response and has been enjoyable to work with.

Lt Short is working with Lee Woodard at the Rec Center on planning for a Firefighter vs. Police softball game on June 4. The game will pit Madison Twp Firefighters against Groveport and Madison Twp police officers in a charity game. We will be asking spectators to bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Lee has also scheduled for 3 food trucks to be hand for folks to catch a bite to eat. (Lee is a great addition to the Rec Center family)

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GROVEPORT MADISON SCHOOLS OFFICER ACTIVITY March 2022

SCHOOL ACTIVITY OF NOTE:

italicized print = patrol response

3/1 *Patrol officers were called to Glendening on report of a domestic violence situation. Investigating officers found that the female victim, the mother of Glendening students, had been assaulted by the children's father at their address in Columbus. Officers called for CPD officers who arrived and took over the investigation. Groveport officers were able to assist in getting the family a temporary place to stay.*

3/2 *Patrol officer took report from a mother of a Groveport Elementary student who stated that someone was texting and threatening other students somehow using her phone number. Detective was unable to determine where the threats were actually originating from. Report only.*

HS student told principal that she was victim of inappropriate touching. Student's father would not allow student to be interviewed by SRO.

3/9 SRO was advised that a male HS student had been looking up weapons on school computer and making strange threats to other students. SRO later observed same student acting strangely and was referred to a school counselor.

SRO spoke with mother of a HS student about a custody dispute involving her daughter (student) and an aunt she was staying with. School counselor and children's services were able to assist on resolution.

HS student set trashcan on fire. SRO referred incident to fire department.

Patrol officers investigated incident with an injured child at Lil Cruiser Academy. It was determined that the injury occurred in a gym class.

3/12 *Patrol officers responded to Middle School Central on report of an unruly student. Student was acting out and failing to follow directions in the presence of officers and was subsequently transported to his group home by officer.*

3/14 SRO took report from female HS student that stated she had been victim of unwanted sexual contact in bathroom at the HS. Incident still under investigation.

3/15 SRO was advised by a principal that a student had been assaulted on 3/10. Officer spoke with student and mother and report taken/assault charge filed.

SRO was advised by principal and female student that she was sexually assaulted in a school restroom some time in November 2021. Report taken/investigation pending.

3/16 Mother phoned SRO to report her son, a HS student, had not returned home from school on the previous day. Student was retrieved from class and detained in office for mother to pick up. All parties referred to counselors for family issues.

3/17 SRO informed of assault on school bus at some time in the morning. Incident referred to Madison TWP SRO Mallory since exact location was unknown.

SRO investigated an assault that occurred in a restroom. Report taken and assault charges filed.

SRO assisted school staff and security breaking up multiple other fights during the day



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3/18 Patrol officer observed Middle School South staff following and trying to stop a walk-away student. Officer was able to get student secured in patrol car and returned to the building. Student's mother arrived and worked with staff to keep student in school for the day.

3/19 Patrol officer was flagged down by parent who stated his child, a Middle School South student, was receiving menacing text messages. It was determined that the messages were coming from a cloned phone number and that the threats were being mass sent and were not targeted toward his student.

3/22 Patrol officer was called to Middle School South on report of found cellphone containing possible sexual contact involving students. Officer impounded phone but did not find any apparent nude/sexual material on phone involving students. Detective followed up on some other images on the phone that contained possible child abuse evident. Detective spoke to parent and referred issue to children's services.

Patrol officers were called to Middle School South on report of a fight. Fight was broken up before officer arrival and school declined charges.

3/24 SRO was advised by school principal that a video was circulating the school via social media depicting a student masturbating. Report was taken.

SRO met with parent reference assault on student that had occurred on 17th. Report taken and assault charge filed.

SRO was called to assist staff with an ill student being difficult and refusing to cooperate with staff. Student eventually relented and left with medics due to heart condition.

SRO sat in with Pataskala PD officer who was questioning a HS student about a vehicle theft and chase that had occurred in their city.

SRO spoke with a student who claims her sister, a Middle School South student, was being sexually abused at home. SRO contacted Obetz PD who already had a report on file.

3/25 SRO impounded a pellet gun that a HS student had brought in and was showing other students. Report taken and criminal charge filed.

SRO and principal talked with HS student claiming she had been raped in the building in February. Report taken and investigation ongoing.

3/28 SRO talked with a parent advising that her HS student was going to be assaulted at the bus stop which is in Columbus. Parent was advised to contact CPD and school admin was notified.

SRO was notified by school counselor that a HS student was in the clinic implying self harm. SRO notified County CID and student was transported to hospital for evaluation.

SRO spoke with parent that was upset because her HS student daughter kept leaving campus with an 18 year old male. SRO contacted male and warned for interfering with custody.

SRO spoke with principal and HS student who stated he was afraid to go home with abusive mother. Madison TWP SRO transported student to children's services.

SRO spoke stood by with school principals talking with angry mother about her son being assaulted in lunchroom after school.

3/29 SRP dealt with same angry mother from previous day and had to order her to calm down and not be disorderly in the school. Report was taken.

3/30 SRO was advised by school principal that two HS students were emailing each other about abuse at home in Columbus. SRO notified CPD who performed a well-being check.



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3/31 SRO responded to small amount of trash set on fire in HS restroom. SRO advised Madison TWP fire.

Patrol officer responded to Middle School Central on an unruly parent. Parent was ordered to cease and desist and was then trespassed off of school property.

There were three fire lane parking citations written at the HS for the month.



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Lt. Bary Murphy-

In the month of March 18 new criminal cases were assigned for further follow up including two sex related crimes. A search warrant was served with Franklin County SWAT on the south end of Columbus as part of our large theft of catalytic converters investigation. Eight cases were transmitted to the Franklin County Prosecutor's office for consideration. In addition to the aforementioned warrant 12 other warrants or subpoenas were prepared and served. Two cases were presented to the Franklin County Grand Jury for consideration.

Sgt. Josh Guiler-

Third Shift Patrol March Report 2022

Duty Hours = 817.5	Miles = 4829	Dispatches = 78
Calls to Service = 13	Pick-ups = 141	Traffic Stops = 44
Citations/Parking Tickets = 19	Injury Crash = 1	Incident Reports = 11
Mutual Aid(s) = 4	Building Alarms = 15	Open Buildings = 3
Suspicious Person(s) = 17	Suspicious Vehicles = 19	Business/House Checks = 954

As we reported last month, third shift patrol has been enforcing ordinance violations on inoperable or not properly registered motor vehicles throughout the city. Together we have found 23 motor vehicles that were in violation. Out of the 23 vehicles, 22 have come into compliance. Only 1 ignored several warnings and was subsequently towed. All officers did a great job and we believe by giving the residents a copy of the ordinance with their specific violation marked, helped resolve the majority of the violation.

On 03/31/2022 third shift officers were dispatched to an accident that occurred at 2650 E. London-Groveport Rd. Upon arrival the suspects had already left the scene. They did however leave the vehicle which was heavily damaged. A search of the vehicle we located several sawzall blades. Officers then did a search of the area and Ofc. Kyle Smith located a sawzall cutting tool along with a battery charger hidden under a propane tank at the rear of the business. All criminal tools along with the vehicle were impounded. It was determined that the suspects were in the area attempting to cut off catalytic converters. Detective Gilbert is now actively investigating the case and we hope to soon know the identities of the suspects.

Overall, third shift's activity has increased from last month by doubling the amount of traffic stops and our citations have also increased. We will continue concentrate our policing efforts in the residential areas and within our businesses districts.



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Sgt. John Westhoven-

For the Month of March, day shift had a few reoccurring parking complaints that were handled. There were also traffic complaints in the area of the elementary school on Main St. Officers focused on the school zones and handled other normal calls for service throughout the city.

Sgt. Sam Yockey-

March

2022

Second Shift

Second shift call volume is continuing to slightly increase but that is normal this time of the year. On second shift Officers receive a wide range of calls but the most common ones for this month were still accidents, domestic issues and juvenile calls. We received a rise in incidents involving juveniles this month. Some of these incidents were runaways, unruly issues and assaults (school related).

Officers worked a small traffic survey in the area of Nutmeg Place and Hickory Grove due to receiving complaints about speeders and traffic violations. The neighbors in the area were very thankful we were there. The results of the survey were:

Time monitoring traffic: 180 Minutes Vehicles observed: 113 Violations observed/Traffic Stops: 5

The survey showed that speed was not an issue while officers were present however our presence may have deterred speeding. The primary violations were stop sign violations.

Officers also worked a complaint of a house inside the city which may be involved in dealing narcotics. Officers monitored the area and completed a traffic stop involving a vehicle leaving the residence. The traffic stop concluded that the house may be involved in drug activity. Officers will continue to monitor the area.

Second shift is still continuing enforcing traffic laws in various parts of the city and the most common violation is still speed.

Officers completed a total of twenty three foot patrols in the business and residential areas.

Officer Huston who is in his second Field Training phase with Officer Bell is doing very well.

Officer Bell is Officer Huston's Field training Officer and stated that his previous experience is making the transition to Groveport very easy. Officer Bell has been a great Field training Officer for Groveport Police for many years.