

# Groveport Police Department



*City Council Report  
Mayor Lance Westcamp  
Groveport City Council*

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## Training, Officer Activities and monthly report information: **July 2024**

Calls to Service & Incident Reports	Number	Calls to Service & Incident Reports	Number
Franklin CO SO Mutual Aid	3	Accidents	16
Madison TWP PD Mutual Aid	16	House Watches	5
Madison Twp. Fire Mutual Aid	1	Public Assist	23
Obetz PD Mutual Aid	6	Domestic Violence/Dispute	6
CPD/ CFD/Other Agencies Mutual Aid	4	Burglary Related Call(s)	0
911 Hang Up	9	OVI Arrest	0
Residential/Business Alarm Response	50	Larceny/Robbery	11
Animal Complaints	5	Weapon Related Calls (Gun/Knife/ETC)	6
Mileage	16,051	Missing Persons/Juveniles	61
Call Party by Phone	10	Disabled Vehicle/Stranded Motorists	14
Sheriff's Dispatches/Self-Initiated Calls	217 / 393	School Related Dispatched Calls	0
Follow-Up on Previous Call to Service	16	Stolen/Unauthorized Use	0
Day Shift % of Calls to Service	29%	Suspicious Peron(s)/Vehicle(s)	39
Afternoon Shift % of Calls to Service	34%	Threats/Harassment Calls to Service	1
Mid-Night Shift % of Calls to Service	37%	Vandalism	1
Investigate Unknown Complaint	3	Suicide (attempts)/ DOA/Mental Health Call/Overdose Related Calls to Service	4
Traffic Citations/Traffic Stops	59 / 111	Sex Related Crimes	0
Training Hours	40	Arrests made	6
Referrals (FCCS)	1	Juvenile Complaints	2
Drunk/Disorderly Conduct Related	1	Assault/Fight Calls to Service	8
Neighborhood Complaint	1	Open Door/Building Call to Service	4
Calls to Service/Incident Reports	462 / 89	Other: <i>Damage to City Property/Info</i>	8



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### **Hiring and Staff-**

In early July, Mayor Lance Westcamp, City Administrator B.J. King, Personnel Director Joyce Myers, HR Generalists Annie Short, and myself interviewed (3) individuals to fill a vacancy in the police department (Created upon Ptl. Tisha Pack's Retirement in June). All the candidates in this interview were currently in the Eastland Police Academy and were almost ready to graduate from the program. As of late July, Mayor Westcamp was awaiting the results of the candidates test results from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in order to have all the facts on each applicant, and then decide which candidate(s) would receive a conditional offer of hire for the open Patrol Officer position.

In late July, Detective Sergeant Josh Gilbert informed me about his intent to leave the Groveport Police Department, for the Columbus Police Department. Sgt. Gilbert advised me that the decision was not an easy decision because he is able to conduct felony criminal investigations and background investigation for new potential employees, but the City of Columbus offers their employees unlimited College Tuition Reimbursement. Sgt. Gilbert has made his intentions clear that he is currently enrolled at Franklin University, and he wants to study and graduate from Law School before he retires.

Sgt. Gilbert's final day with the Groveport Police Department will be on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He has been with the Groveport Police Department since February 2007, where he has served as a Patrol Officer, Liaison with the Franklin County Special Investigations Unit Task Force, Detective, Liaison with the Secret Service and US Marshalls Office, and now as the Detective Sergeant. I am extremely proud of Sgt. Gilbert, he has brought justice to our community, by going the extra mile on investigations, investing our criminal forfeiture money into FLOCK License Plate Reader Cameras, Investigative Crime Scene Tools, and training at the US Secret Service Training Center in Alabama for all the current detectives. I also want to acknowledge him for the past 18 months, Sgt. Gilbert has taken on the roll as trainer for the two new detectives in the past year and a half, and we have seen Det. Danny Amabile and Det. David Fairman flourish as team members in the Detective Bureau.

With the departure of Sgt. Gilbert, this now leaves our agency with an opening in our patrol operations and Detective Bureau. I have sat down with both detectives, police department administrative staff and Mayor Westcamp, and it is my decision at this time to concentrate on new hires and the Patrol Bureau. We will operate with (2) two detectives, Lt. Bary Murphy will handle and assist the Detective Bureau when needed, and Patrol Operations Liaison Javier Herrera will handle the smaller day to day assignments for the detectives. It is my hope to have a third detective in place by March 2025, once we have posted the position and identified a



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candidate who can go into the Detective Bureau, and pick up the responsibilities of a full-time investigator.

### **Training-**

Sgt. Sam Yockey and Sgt. Ernie Bell have attended their orientation for their upcoming supervisor training. Sgt. Sam Yockey will be attending the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) program that is (3) three weeks in length, over a four-month period. Sgt. Ernie Bell will be attending Supervisors Training & Education Program (STEP) that is also (3) three weeks in a three-month period. Both programs are designed to prepare these supervisors for their duties and challenges they will face as supervisors.

Continuing Professional Training from the State of Ohio mandate, Sgt. Sam Yockey has instructed all Groveport Police Department Personnel to explore and complete the State of Ohio mandated 24 hours of training in the following topics by October 31st:

- ☐ Gun Identification/Shot Analysis
- ☐ Responding to Mental Health Issues
- ☐ Victim's Rights-Marsy's Law
- ☐ Crisis Mitigation and De-Escalation
- ☐ Veteran in Crisis
- ☐ Reporting Writing
- ☐ Impacting Narcotics in Ohio
- ☐ Arrest, Search and Seizure
- ☐ Bureau Criminal Investigation Lethal Use of Force & Officer Involved Shooting Investigations
- ☐ Critical Thinking in Use of Force Situation
- ☐ Response to Mass Violence & Mass Protest Seminar

### **Traffic Enforcement-**

Groveport Police Department Personnel have observed, or have been alerted to increase examples of reckless driving. Ptl. Forrest Benner conducted a traffic stop during a weekday rush hour time in late July, the vehicle was observed traveling at a speed much greater than the posted 50 mph zone in the area of State Route 317, North of Groveport Road. The individual operating the vehicle was test driving a Kia from Ricart, and was stopped for 109 mph on State Route 317 South bound traffic. When I observed the In-Car Video from Ptl. Benner's patrol vehicle, the violator looked like he was passing the other vehicles on State Route 317 as if they



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were standing still compared to his reckless operation on the roadway. Currently the traffic case for Speed and Willful/Wanton Disregard for Safety is in Groveport Mayor's Court.

Another example of reckless driving, I was in the Patrol Truck pulling the GPD OVI trailer on Main Street @ College Street waiting for the traffic light to turn green. A vehicle traveling East bound behind the Patrol Truck and GPD Trailer decided to pass me down the middle of Main Street, disregarding the safety of myself or others on Main Street. This type of illegal changing of lanes and passing vehicles on Main Street is becoming more common between College Street to Madison Street, and Main Street between Front Street to Delane Road.

Finally, Sgt. Ernie Bell has advised and is working with the Public Service Department on illegal parking in our logistical center roadways. The most common practice by truck drivers is to stop, park and go to sleep in the Semi Truck in the middle of the center lane that is designed for Left Turn Only into the businesses. They will also just park in the middle of a lane of travel on a two-lane roadway in the South business parks and block traffic that can only utilize one lane of travel. The truck drivers are waiting to drop off and/or pick up a load at a warehouse, but their stopping and parking blocks other vehicles from turning out into the roadways. Sgt. Bell and mid-night shift have been warning and advising the drivers to move it along, and not park on the roadway. The most common areas where this is occurring:

- ☐ Marketing Place
- ☐ Directors Blvd
- ☐ Port Road
- ☐ Spiegel Drive
- ☐ Rohr Road
- ☐ Opus Drive
- ☐ Green Pointe Drive South



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## **Captain Kurt Blevins Monthly Report-**

**NOTABLE:** July 3rd & 4th Summary Report / Blue letters underscore the highlights. Fireworks July 3rd, 2024: The July fourth tents and folding chairs are collectively down. The "booms" of fireworks and parade inducing smiles and their displays are now in the history book for Groveport's 2024 celebration. The inaugural launch of a new schedule for the Fireworks and Parade celebrations included some challenges in the planning phase. Sergeant Gilbert, Lieutenant Short and myself met the demands head on as we applied new strategies to a different schedule.

At approximately 5:00 PM on the evening of the Fireworks event, the temperature reached 90 degrees, and rain threatened to disrupt the festivities. Between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM, a total of 0.57 inches of rain fell, thoroughly soaking the city and those who had begun claiming their viewing spots a little early. This likely caused delays for many attendees who had planned to secure prime viewing locations. Fortunately, the last sprinkles of rain ceased around 8:55 PM.

Despite the weather challenges, the resilient crowd experienced a significant drop in temperatures, which settled comfortably at 73 degrees. Around 10:00 PM, Administrator BJ King made the decision to delay the fireworks launch by 30 minutes, allowing more residents to attend the show. Although the crowd was noticeably lighter, it remains uncertain whether weather played a significant role in discouraging turnout or if the newly adopted schedule of events may have influenced attendance. Perhaps both played a part, still though crowds of people still trickled in by 10PM.

The fireworks display, as always, was fantastic, and there were very few minor negative police interactions reported by the officers. Traffic management was swift, and the streets were cleared with minimal effort. No arrests or serious incidents related to the Fireworks event were reported.

**Parade, July 4th, 2024:** "On the morning of the parade, clear skies prevailed, and there was no rain in the immediate forecast. At 9:00 AM, the temperatures in the city had rebounded from the cool evening lows to a balmy 84 degrees. By the time of the parade launch, temperatures hovered around 87 degrees. Despite a southwest wind reported at 14-24 mph, the hot pavement provided little relief for the parade participants. Water became a crucial commodity for both spectators and participants. Fortunately, many parade participants generously distributed water bottles and even ice pops at various points along the route.



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Despite the early-day heat, the parade proceeded smoothly without any major issues or injuries. Officers diligently patrolled on bikes, and Lieutenant Short, riding his signature ATV, was enthusiastically greeted by young fans and followers on the GPD Facebook page. I overheard more than one excited shout of 'Hey, it's Lt. Short! I know him!' as they watched him lead the parade from a distance, pulling from side to side of the road to greet people up close. Another successful, albeit hot, parade unfolded. There were no serious incidents or negative police interactions reported. Traffic was efficiently managed, and I assume everyone returned home to celebrate the freedom symbolized by July 4th by spending time with loved ones and enjoying some outdoor grilling.

It is anticipated that the City will again consider this event schedule for 2025. As always, our department and team of officers will dutifully respond with continued advance planning and preparation for any challenges.

• **POLICY REPORT:** The following Policy Sections were reviewed and distributed by my office for required department wide scenario based daily training, called Daily Training Bulletins (DTB's) for July 2024. Red lettered Policies are part of the Ohio Collaborative.

- Policy 700: Agency-Owned and Personal Property / 700.2.1 - Member Responsibilities
- Policy 332: Biological Samples / 332.5 -Use of Force to Obtain Samples
- Policy 1025: Nepotism and Conflicting Relationships / 1025.2.1 - Employees Responsibilities
- Policy 416: Contacts and Temporary Detentions / 416.6 - Witness Identification and Interviews
- Policy 303: Control Devices and Techniques / 303.1 - Purpose and Scope
- Policy 302: Handcuffing and Restraints / 302.7.1 - Guidelines for Use of Leg Restraints
- Policy 328: Identity Theft / 328.2 – Reporting
- Policy 603: Informants / 603.4 - Informant Integrity
- Policy 420: Mobile Data Terminal Use / 420.4 - Restricted Access and Use
- Policy 339: Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions / 339.4.4 - Other Considerations
- Policy 305: Officer Involved Shootings and Deaths / 305.5.5 - Involved Officers
- Policy 301: Use of Force Review Boards / 301.4 - Review Board
- Policy 1023: Personal Appearance Standards / 1023.2.6 - Jewelry
- Policy 401: Biased Based Policing / 401.4.1- Reason for Contact
- Policy 803: Records Maintenance and Release / 803.6- Subpoenas and Discovery Requests
- Policy 308: Response to Calls / 308.3 - Requesting Emergency Assistance
- Policy 338: Service Animals / 338.3 - Member Responsibilities
- Policy 1029: Employee Speech, Expression & Social Networking / 1029.4 Prohibited Speech, Expression and Conduct.



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- Policy 311: Temporary Custody of Juveniles / 311.3 - Juveniles Who Should Not Be Held
- Policy 505: Traffic and Parking Citations / 505.4.2 – Voiding
- Policy 300: Use of Force / 300.7 - Supervisor Responsibilities
- Policy 1033: Wellness Program / 1033.2 - Policy
- Policy 702: Vehicle Maintenance / 702.2.1 - Suspected Damage or Poor Performance
- Policy 502: Vehicle Towing and Release / 502.5 - Vehicle Inventory
- Policy 300: Use of Force / 300.8 - Training

### **> *Policy Additions This Month:***

**Policy 335:** Media Protection: The Media Protection Policy aims to safeguard Criminal Justice information (CJI) until it is either publicly released through authorized channels or properly disposed of according to record retention rules. This policy aligns with the FBI's CJIS Security Policy and may be supplemented by other Groveport Police policies, provided that those policies do not lower the standards. Scope: This policy covers all electronic and physical media containing FBI CJI within the Groveport Police Department. It applies to any authorized personnel who access, store, or transport such media. Movement of CJI outside of secure areas must be monitored and controlled.

**Policy 336:** Physical Protection Policy: Purpose: This policy establishes guidelines for safeguarding Criminal Justice Information (CJI) from unauthorized access. It mandates strict control and documentation for all physical, logical, and electronic access to CJI-related systems and data. The policy emphasizes protection against both internal and external threats to CJI throughout its lifecycle. Scope: Applicable to Groveport Police Department personnel, support staff, and external contractors with CJI access.

**Policy 610:** Disciplinary Policy (LEADS and Other CJI): Purpose: This policy outlines the Groveport Police Department's expectations for the responsible use of technology resources, including those used to access FBI Criminal Justice Information (CJI). Key Points:

- All personnel with CJI access are responsible for protecting system integrity and data.
- Technology use is a privilege subject to federal, state, and local laws.
- Misuse of technology resources can result in disciplinary action, including termination.
- All files are subject to search.
- Complaints about technology misuse will be investigated and addressed. Overall, the policy emphasizes the importance of data security, employee accountability, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations.





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**Policy 805: LEADS CJIS: Access Control:** This policy mandates regular reviews of all Groveport Police Department accounts accessing the L.E.A.D.S. system. The reviews, conducted at least every six months by the Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) or designee, ensure that account privileges align with employee job responsibilities, information needs, and current employment status.

### ➤ Policy Updates This Month:

**Policy 608: Cyber Security Incident Response:** This policy provides practical guidelines on responding to cyber security incidents in a consistent and effective manner. The plan establishes a team of first responders to an incident with defined roles, responsibilities, and means of communication. Updates to this Cyber Security Incident policy include a more detailed procedure for accountability and reporting. Curious or Questions about a particular policy? Feel free to contact me with your concern or question [kblevins@groveport.org](mailto:kblevins@groveport.org)

- **OBJECTIVES:** Key objectives for the upcoming month of August encompass the initiation of preparatory measures for potential new hires. To ensure operational continuity during my scheduled vacation later in August, Chief Adams and Lieutenant Short will assume primary responsibility for associated administrative tasks. A preliminary framework for the procedure manual has been established, with initial editing processes underway. Upon my return in September I will delve deeper into this manual.





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### **Lt. Josh Short Monthly Report-**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ofc. Shellie Rimmer and I met with Groveport Madison Deputy Superintendent Paul Smathers to discuss Shellie's new role as school resource officer for the south part of the district. Smather's laid out the district expectation of Shellie's role which coincides with our goals. We are all very excited to have Shellie assume this role and give the schools the attention they deserve. This will only add to all of the time that our patrol officers regularly spend visiting and interacting with all of our school teachers and staff.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> I sat in on a meeting with the city concerning the intersection on Bixby/Ebright roads. I'm sure you have all been caught up on those plans by Mr. Farst but the police department is on board and believes the improvements will address safety concerns and future growth in the area.

On the 18 I attended a meeting with GM Schools and Madison Twp Police and Fire to plan for some safety training for GM Schools. As always, there is a nice professional relationship between the schools and its first responders with a shared goal of safety for the staff and students.

In regard to the City's Independence Day Celebration.... I am of the opinion that our plan to split the event into two days was very successful. That was the most uneventful (problem-wise) fireworks we have had in a decade and made for a much more enjoyable time for everyone.



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### **Shift Assignment: Afternoon Shift 2pm-10pm**

#### **Monthly Highlights:**

Arrested a male for a protection order violation-This was an incident where Officer Nixon and Chavez were very thorough during a well-being check and their actions protected the victim for the night while the suspect was in jail.

Three domestic violence related calls which one resulted in an arrest.

Felony Drug arrest of a male at a local gas station. At the jail he had a balloon in his stomach containing more drugs.

Multiple hit skip accidents which was more than usual.

Assault at a parking lot where the suspect was charged via warrant.

Theft of a purse from a shopping cart at Kroger which resulted in charges being filed on the suspect by the detective bureau.

Dispatch aired that a Columbus Police shooting suspect may be in our area due to where his phone was pinging-Officers were able to locate and arrest him without incident at a warehouse-He was turned over to Columbus Police.

Officers conducted 46 patrols at the Groveport Recreation and Aquatic center this month.

**Sgt. S. Yockey # S4**



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Shift Assignment- Mid-Nights 10pm to 6am

On the evening of August 6, 2024, we received a dispatch to 6025 Groveport Road (Fast Test Labs) on a Burglary in progress. A male suspect was prying the rear door with a crow bar.

Upon arrival found the rear door damaged, but the suspect had fled on foot. In checking the other businesses, it was found that the Great Wall restaurant was burglarized in the same manner. (6023 Groveport Road) The building was cleared but it was obvious that someone ransacked the front counter looking for cash. Approximately \$40.00 in cash and coin were taken. With video surveillance, the suspect was described as a Male/White, tall and thin, wearing a gray hoodie, ball cap and black shorts. The detective bureau is investigating.

We still have an issue with Semi Tractor-Trailers parking in the middle of the road in the industrial areas. The most common is on Marketing Place and Directors Blvd. There are no signs currently in that area and we are working with Public Works Director Brian Strayer to get signs posted in that area. We have put up temporary "NO Parking" signs and they seem to be working for now. We have also appointed a Tractor-Trailer Czar to patrol the Industrial areas at least twice a shift, to report any issues, and get them to move along. Their common complaint is that Loves and Sheetz truck stops are full.

Sgt. Ernie Bell # S-5



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*For Cases opened between 7/1/2024 and 7/31/2024 for all case types, all units, all office regions, a...(see end of report)*

Case Subtype	Cases	%
Assault	1	0.60 %
Complaint	4	2.41 %
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	1	0.60 %
Damage to City Property	2	1.20 %
Domestic Dispute	3	1.81 %
Domestic Violence	3	1.81 %
FCCS REFERRAL	1	0.60 %
Hit Skip	4	2.41 %
House Watch	5	3.01 %
Information	1	0.60 %
Larceny/Theft	11	6.63 %
Lost Property	1	0.60 %
Menacing	1	0.60 %
Miscellaneous	1	0.60 %
Mutual Aid - Madison TWP F.D.	1	0.60 %
Mutual Aid - Madison TWP P.D.	16	9.64 %
Mutual Aid - Obetz P.D.	6	3.61 %
Mutual Aid - Other	4	2.41 %
Mutual Aid - Sheriff's Office	3	1.81 %
Person in Jeopardy	1	0.60 %
Public Assist / Lock Out	23	13.86 %
Traffic Citation	33	19.88 %
Traffic Offense	23	13.86 %
Trespass Warning	1	0.60 %
Unspecified Call	2	1.20 %
Unspecified Narcotics Complaint	1	0.60 %
Vehicle Crash	12	7.23 %
Warrant	1	0.60 %
Total	166	100.00 %

*For Cases opened between 7/1/2024 and 7/31/2024 for all case types, all units, all office regions, all teams, grouped by Case Subtype*



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