

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2022

12:00-1:30pm

Via Zoom

Members: Byrne (faculty), Caplan (institutional), Davis-Frost (institutional), Krishnan (student), Lewis (faculty)

Absent: Esmail (faculty), Mullen (student), Ononye (student)

Co-Chairs: DeStefano, Lombardi

Staff: Burgess, Hodges, Honan, Matta, Radloff

Guest: Conrad, Capt. Dauber (NYS Troop C-Zone 3)

START: 12:02pm

I. General Updates

PSAC Co-Chair, DeStefano welcomed the committee to today's meeting and introduced guest speaker Captain Erik Dauber from NYSP Troop C - Zone 3. Captain Dauber joins the committee today to discuss NYS trends on crime and public safety.

Prior to the introductions, Co-Chair DeStefano gave a brief update on the February 7, 2022, Trustee/Community Communications Committee meeting with additional data from Chief Honan and the February 8, 2022, University Assembly meeting in which she provided an update on the committee's work.

II. NYS Trends on Crime and Public Safety from Accreditation Report (Dauber).

Captain Dauber began his presentation by providing a summary of trends relating to gun violence and critical incidents. In the last two years, there have been an increase in gun related violence within Troop C – most of which have been drug related. There are multiple exercises and training now put in place to recognize components needed for labs created for drugs. Captain Dauber also presented trends on gun violence and touched on legislation being put into effect to try to mitigate illegal sale, purchase, and handling of guns. Initiatives are also increasing for intelligence-related policing with the help of federal and state offices.

Key Trends for 2020-2021 calls in Tompkins County:

- Assault – 45% increase

- Burglary – 47% increase
- Gun/weapons – stayed the same
- Larceny – 31% increase with arrests going up 180%
- Mental Health – 43% increase with “arrests” going up 75%. It is noted that arrest in this case is defined as a person being involuntarily taken to get services needed under the mental health law. In these cases, the police are required to process individuals.
- DWIs – 33% increase
- 20% decrease in manpower could affect the data
- Large percentage of traffic stops and vehicle searches result in discovering drugs and weapons.

Captain Dauber also mentioned the decrease in recruitment numbers and hiring freezes that have created a difficult situation for the uptick of crimes. This limits the number of calls that they can respond to and the amount of coverage that they can provide. In response to a question regarding morale, Captain Dauber stated that morale has been very low lately with more officers losing confidence.

Committee asked for numbers and data related to racial categorization of arrests and any reviews related to this data. Captain Dauber stated that internal affairs have multiple layers of reviews to make sure biases are not created during arrests including audits, self-assessments, trainings, body cameras, etc. Any use of force is carefully reviewed. These practices and procedures are all handled and are trickled down by legislation from Albany. Committee also asked about resources available to local law enforcements. Chief Honan and Captain Dauber provided examples of said resources and how the university has utilized each of them.

Committee also commented that officers are taxed too heavily with what they are expected and required to do and how not all calls truly need police presence. These issues create an unfair environment for both the officers and members of the community.

III. Subcommittee Update

Conor provided a brief update on his call with Denver Star and Sam Caplan provided a brief update on CRT meetings.

The subcommittee has elected to use the remainder of the meeting as a working group session. The subcommittee will resume updates to the full group at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM
Notes by: Samantha M Radloff