

Documenters

POWERED BY CITY BUREAU & SIGNAL CLEVELAND

Committee of the Whole

Documenter name: Chanel Wiley

Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: Oct. 23, 2024

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

Summary

- This Committee of the Whole meeting was an operational review of the Department of Public Safety and its divisions.

Follow-Up Questions

- How many times a year does the department meet like this?
- Does each division have its own director? And does each department get its own budget for the year?

Notes

Cleveland City Council's **Committee of the Whole** allows all 17 council members to meet and act as a committee. Essentially, it serves as an extra step in the process of discussing topics or vetting legislation before City Council officially votes on legislation.

Council members present:

- Joe Jones
- Kevin Bishop
- Kerry McCormack
- Deborah Gray
- Richard Starr
- Blaine Griffin, council president
- Stephanie Howse-Jones
- Michael Polensek
- Kevin Conwell
- Anthony Hairston
- Danny Kelly
- Rebecca Maurer
- Kris Harsh

- Jasmin Santana
- Jenny Spencer
- Brian Kazy
- Charles Slife

The meeting started at 10 a.m. by Council Member Michael Polensek, who is also the Safety Committee chair.

This meeting is one of a series of “operational reviews” council is holding of every city department and division ahead of the 2025 budget hearings. This meeting was a review of the Department of Public Safety.

Director of Public Safety Wayne Drummond spoke briefly on the departmental overview of public safety.

Public Safety administration overview:

The goal of the Department of Public Safety is to preserve a safe city for those who live, work and play in Cleveland through facilitation and oversight of the Divisions of Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Animal Care and Control.

The Public Safety administration is responsible for providing overall direction, support and oversight of the individual operating department and its divisions. [The Office of Emergency Management](#) develops the city’s disaster response plans and coordinates incident management.

The coordination of the public safety ambassador program is also under the administration, and it serves as a direct path for the recruitment and hiring of public safety personnel.

Public Safety administration priorities include:

- Fully implement an unmanned aerial platform system for applications across all divisions.
- Full implementation of the Public Safety Wellness App across all divisions.
- Complete the planned Emergency Operations Center audio and visual equipment replacement and upgrade project.

- Implement the use of results-based accountability to guide data-driven decision making among and between the divisions pursuant to the city's 10-year strategic plan.

Staffing levels

- 2024 budget headcount: 31 full-time, 15 part-time
- Headcount as of Sept. 30, 2024: 30 full-time, 10 part-time
- Current vacancies: 7 full-time
- 2025 approved positions: requested 37 full-time, 10 part-time

Division of Police

Deputy Chief Daniel Fay presented for the Division of Police.

Overview:

Fay said the highest priority of the Division of Police is providing basic police services to the community.

This division is organized by three main functions, which are:

- Administrative operations
- Field operations
- Homeland special operations

Responsibilities and priorities of the Division of Police

- Violent crime reduction/ micro-grid enforcement
- Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)
- Data driven policing / crime analysts
- Crisis intervention

Staffing levels

- 2024 budget headcount: 1,350 sworn members, 206 civilian members, 375 part-time members
- Headcount as of Sept. 30, 2024: 1,189 sworn members, 198 civilian, 250 part-time

- Current vacancies: 161 sworn, eight civilian and 125 part time (primarily school crossing guards)
- 2025 approved positions: Status quo (same as 2024 budgeted levels)

The council members discussed their concerns with the department and the Division of Police, saying that residents are scared to call for help and are nervous about their safety. Polensek mentioned receiving emails from residents who said they would not come downtown due to safety concerns. Polensek said that money has been allocated in the budget to ensure citizen safety, and he stressed that the Division of Police needs to increase its staffing levels.

The committee took a break at noon. The meeting resumed at 1:40 p.m.

Division of Corrections

Drummond was joined at the table by jail liaison Lisa Scafidi, who read the Division of Corrections mission statement, led the presentation on the division, and answered council members' questions.

The mission: To provide incarceration of persons who have been arrested and convicted of crimes and sentenced by the court system.

Scafidi said that in 2018 the City of Cleveland transferred all jail operations to the Cuyahoga County Sheriff and that the Division of Corrections monitors the process to ensure compliance with the contract and with the minimum standards of jails in Ohio.

Division of Fire

Fire Chief Anthony Luke presented.

Staffing levels

- 2024 budget headcount: 757 uniformed officers / 13 civilians
- Headcount as of Sept. 30, 2024: 757 uniformed officers/13 civilians
- Current vacancies: None
- 2025 approved positions: 757 uniformed officers/ 13 civilians

Division of Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

Drummond was joined at the table by Division of EMS Commissioner Orlando Wheeler and EMS Deputy Commissioner Christopher Chapin, who led the presentation.

Chapin said the division is committed to improving the quality of life in the City of Cleveland by maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards of prehospital care, treating patients with dignity and respect and caring for each as if they were a member of our own family.

In 2024, the division:

- Increased staffing levels:
 - 23 new paramedic
 - Two new EMTs and EMDs currently in training
- Improved fleet status
 - Two new ambulances and one supervisor vehicle have been deployed
- Expanded community education
 - 900+ people in certified and hands only CPR
 - 150+ people received “Stop the Bleed” training

Division of Animal Control

Joining Drummond at the table was Bruce Campbell, manager of the Division of Animal Care and Control.

Campbell said the Division of Animal Care and Control’s mission is to protect the safety of residents by impounding stray dogs and nuisance wildlife. It also promotes responsible pet ownership through enforcement of city animal ordinances, pet identification and animal adoption.

Staffing levels

- 2024 budgeted headcount: 33 full-time and 11 part-time
- 8 current vacancies
- 2025 proposed personnel:
 - 39 full-time personnel, which includes:
 - 2 full-time animal care workers
 - 2 full-time junior clerks

Polensek spoke briefly about the Division of Animal Care and Control's contribution to Cleveland and asked that they follow up with him regarding the 2025 budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at clDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.