

# Village of Bluffton Council Meeting Agenda

January 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM



## **Opening Ceremonies**

Call to Order, Mayor Johnson presiding  
Pledge of Allegiance



## **Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the Village Council meeting held on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

## **Bills**

### **Election of Council President**

## **Committee Reports**

Parks & Recreation: 01/09

## **Boards & Commissions**

Pathway Board: 01/02

Planning Commission: 01/06

Cemetery Board: 01/09

## **LEGISLATION**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 01-2025**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **Emergency**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2025 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 01-2025**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **Emergency**

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON IN SUPPORT OF THE LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION SERVING AS THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO STUDY AREA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 02-2025**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **Emergency**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR AGGREGATE AND ASPHALT MATERIAL, ASPHALT APPLICATION AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL FOR THE 2023 CONSTRUCTION YEAR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 03-2025**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **Emergency**

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OH SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S CHALLENGE OF AT&T's TARIFF APPLICATION AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

## **Village Administration Report:**

### **Mayor:**

### **Safety Services Reports:**

-EMS-

-Fire Dept.-

-Police Dept.-

## **Meeting Dates (meetings held at the Town Hall unless otherwise noted\*)**

- Council Meeting – Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Parks & Recreation Committee – Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
- Council Meeting – Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **Public Comment**

**Adjournment** – Motion and Second

Village of Bluffton – Regular meeting December 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Johnson presiding. Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia present.

Cupples motioned, seconded by Stahl, to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on December 9, 2024. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Steiner motioned, seconded by Talavinia, to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer gave the following readings:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Ordinance 13-2024 – An Ordinance amending Ordinance 03-2024 (the annual appropriation Ordinance) and declaring an emergency. Cupples motioned, seconded by Sehlhorst, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Stahl motioned, seconded by Steiner, to adopt the Ordinance. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 32-2024 – A Resolution making certain transfers and declaring an emergency. Talavinia motioned, seconded by Cupples, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Cupples motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Stahl. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 33-2024 – A Resolution making certain transfers at the legal level of control and declaring an emergency. Sehlhorst motioned, seconded by Stahl, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Talavinia motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Steiner. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 34-2024 – A Resolution to renew the current contract with the firm Hackenberg, Feighner & Werth LLC, with attorney Elliott T. Werth as the Village Solicitor for the Village of Bluffton, Ohio for a period of one (1) year effective January 1, 2025, and declaring an emergency. Cupples motioned, seconded by Sehlhorst, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Sehlhorst motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Talavinia. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Cupples motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The following meetings/events were included on the agenda and/or scheduled during the meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee on Friday, December 27 at noon.

Pathway Board Meeting on Thursday, January 2 at noon.

Planning Commission Meeting on Monday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Cemetery Board on Thursday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Council Meeting on Monday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

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MAYOR

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FISCAL OFFICER

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON  
VOUCHER REPORT 1/13/2025

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION
AETNA	23,606.82	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
AG-PRO	425.90	Multiple	SAW BLADES
AIM MEDIA MIDWEST	677.70	Administrative	ADVERTISING
ALL SERVICE AERATION, INC	482.50	Multiple	PORTABLE TOILETS
ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	57,289.50	Administrative	DISPATCH SERVICE
ALLEN COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSN	150.00	Police	2025 DUES
ALLOWAY TESTING	1,837.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	1,525.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	300.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	75.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	20,575.83	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	106.47	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	165.00	Multiple	LIFE INSURANCE
BASINGER PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	2,200.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL BOILER - ICE MELT MOTOR
BEAVERDAM CONSTRUCTING, INC.	2,075.13	Capital Improvements	POCONO DR UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS
BEAVERDAM FLEET SERVICE INC	1,471.34	Multiple	FRONT TIRES ON BACKHOE
BLUFFTON FLYING SERVICE	5,000.00	Airport	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	3,465.80	Park	PARKING LOT STONE
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	209.48	Multiple	STONE
BURNHAM & FLOWER	1,785.00	Administrative	INSURANCE PREMIUM
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	43.42	Administrative	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	169.98	Administrative	CABLE
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	240.00	Multiple	GENERAL ENGINEERING
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	12,860.90	Street	SR 103 AT NAVAJO IMPROVEMENT
CINTAS	87.38	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	87.31	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	87.38	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	87.60	Administrative	STAMPS - MAYOR
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK- HSA	31,375.00	Multiple	HSA CONTRIBUTIONS
CLEMANS, NELSON & ASSOCIATES, INC	175.00	Administrative	RETAINER
CONNECT PARENT CORPORATION	238.75	Administrative	PHONES
ESRI	825.00	Multiple	LICENSE
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	274.92	Water	HEAVY DUTY WATER METER COVER
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	500.22	Water	HYDRANT SUPPLIES
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	(24.96)	Water	HYDRANT SUPPLIES
GARY'S REPAIR	9.52	Multiple	SUPPLIES & PARTS
GARY'S REPAIR	12.14	Multiple	SUPPLIES & PARTS
HSI EMERGENCY CARE SOLUTIONS INC./MEDIC FIRST AID	364.00	Rescue	2025 EMS TRAINING PLATFORM
JUSTIN SHANNON	570.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL CLEANING
KALIDA TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC.	16.38	Street	PRESSURE SWITCH
KENT KARHOFF LLC	800.00	Cemetery	BURIALS & FOUNDATIONS
KLEEM	97.77	Street	STREET SIGNS
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	1,093.76	Multiple	PARTS
Lexipol	6,204.70	Police	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
LEXIS NEXIS RISK DATA MANAGEMENT INC.	50.00	Administrative	ADDRESS SEARCHES
MAGLOCLLEN, INC.	400.00	Police	TRAINING RESOURCE
MARATHON FLEET SERVICES	1,688.92	Multiple	FUEL
NEW HORIZON COMMUNICATIONS	550.56	Administrative	PHONES
NORTHWESTERN OHIO SECURITY SYSTEMS	202.00	Land & Buildings	MONITORING
OHIO CRIME PREVENTION ASSN.	50.00	Police	OCPA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
OHIO TREASURER	54,467.14	Multiple	LOAN PAYMENT
OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	243,416.38	Capital Improvements	OWDA LOAN PAYMENT
PROBST, GREG	55.50	Cemetery	REIMBURSE LAPTOP BAG
Railroad Management Company IV LLC	654.72	Water	LICENSE FEES
SHELL FLEET PLUS	1,181.59	Multiple	FUEL
SMITH-BOUGHAN INC	345.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL ICE MELT SYSTEM
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	2,404.29	Multiple	ANNUAL SOFTWARE & HARDWARE SUPPORT
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	26,730.78	Multiple	ANNUAL SOFTWARE & HARDWARE SUPPORT
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	154.67	Multiple	SUPPLIES

STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	44.93	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STRYKER	6,645.75	Capital Improvements	AED'S
TREASURER OF STATE OF OHIO	373.10	Administrative	AUDIT FEES
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	31,702.20	Police	KENWOOD RADIOS
VERIZON WIRELESS	100.33	Multiple	CELL PHONES
VERIZON WIRELESS	160.44	Multiple	CELL PHONES
VETTER LUMBER CO.	35.17	Multiple	SUPPLIES
WALLACEPANCHER GROUP	6,041.05	Airport	TAXI LANE REHABILITATION
INCOME TAX REFUNDS	1,194.48	Administrative	INCOME TAX REFUNDS
	<b>558,318.64</b>		
DECEMBER MONTHLY	2,569.00		
MEDICARE	37.22		
OPERS	269.03		
FICA	40.14		
BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 12/27/24	56,508.53		
MEDICARE	773.97		
OPERS	3,935.22		
OP&F	5,365.37		

Council Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2025 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio Legislature enacted various legislation that caused changes to be made to American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code.

WHEREAS, American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2025 Edition, reflects the changes made to Ohio Law during 2024.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the usual daily operation of the Village and for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare of the Village that this ordinance take effect at an early date.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO:**

Section 1. American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2025 Edition, as reviewed by the Village Council, is hereby adopted and enacted. Any prior version of the Ohio Basic Code which may have been previously adopted by the Village of Bluffton is hereby obsolete and is hereby replaced in its' entirety by this Ohio Basic Code, 2025 Edition.

Section 2. One copy of American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2024 Edition, certified as correct by the Mayor and Village Fiscal Officer of the Village of Bluffton, as required by Ohio Revised Code §731.23, shall be kept in its initial form on file in the office of the Fiscal Officer of the Village of Bluffton. The Fiscal Officer is authorized and directed to publish a summary of all new matters contained in the Code of Ordinances as required by Ohio Revised Code §731.23. Such summary is attached hereto and marked as "Exhibit A".

Section 3. All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of the Ohio Basic Code, as adopted in Section 1 hereof, are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this ordinance, except as follows:

(A) The enactment of the Ohio Basic Code, 2025 Edition, shall not be construed to affect a right or liability accrued or incurred under any legislative provision prior to the effective date of such enactment, or an action or proceeding for the enforcement of such right or liability. Such enactment shall not be construed to relieve any person from punishment for an act committed in violation of any such legislative provision, nor to affect indictment or prosecution therefore. For such purposes, any such legislative provision shall continue in full force notwithstanding its repeal for the purpose of revision and codification.

(B) The repeal provided above shall not affect:

- a. The grant or creation of a franchise, license, right, easement or privilege;
- b. The purchase, sale, lease or transfer of property;
- c. The appropriation or expenditure of money or promise or guarantee of payment;
- d. The assumption of any contract or obligation;
- e. The issuance and delivery of any bonds, obligations or other instruments of indebtedness;
- f. The levy or imposition of taxes, assessments or charges;
- g. The establishment, naming, vacating or grade level of any street or public way
- h. The dedication of property or plat approval;
- i. The annexation or detachment of territory;
- j. Any legislation enacted subsequent to the adoption of this ordinance.
- k. Any legislation specifically superseding the provision of the Ohio

Basic Code.

Section 4. That the following sections are hereby made part of and added to the Ohio Basic Code, 2025 Ed. that is adopted as the Code of Ordinances of the Municipality of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio pursuant to Section 10.15 thereof:

72.018 Nuisance Operation of Motor Vehicle

72.019 Regulations on Golf Carts, Utility Vehicles, and Other Under Speed Vehicles

76.13 Parking during Snow Emergency

76.04(A)(17) Maximum Distance from Curb or Edge of Roadway

76.04(A)(18) Minimum Distance from an Intersection

76.04(A)(19) Parking/Storage of Inoperative Vehicle

96.20 Regulation of Use of Loud Sound Amplification Systems

132.15 Intoxication

139.01 Curfew

139.02 Reward for Information leading to conviction of Vandals

The full text of which is attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 5. That an emergency exists in the operation of the Village whereby failure to act will be detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety of the inhabitants thereof.

Section 6. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed and Adopted the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the  
the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VILLAGE SOLICITOR

CERTIFICATION OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES

We, the Mayor and the Clerk of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §§ 731.23 and 731.42, hereby certify that the general and permanent ordinances of the Village of Bluffton, as revised, rearranged, compiled, renumbered as to sections, codified and printed herewith in component codes and titles are correct as and constitute the Code of Ordinances for the Village of Bluffton, Ohio.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **ADDITIONAL MATTERS AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 4**

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

**This section contains municipal ordinances which supersede the Ohio Basic Code section of the same number.**

#### **§ 72.018 NUISANCE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) Operate any motor vehicle, except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law, in such a manner that the vehicle or its motor is so rapidly accelerated or started from a standing position that the exhaust system emits a loud, cracking, chattering or other noise unusual to its normal operation, the rubber tires of such vehicle squeal or leave tire marks on the roadway, or throw gravel or debris commonly called peeling;

(2) Operate any motor vehicle so as to race or accelerate the motor while the vehicle is not in gear or in motion in such manner as to produce unnecessary or unreasonably loud noise; or

(3) Operate any motor vehicle so as to race or accelerate excessively the motor while the vehicle is in motion in such manner as to produce unnecessary or unreasonably loud noise.

(B) The creation or production of noise by squealing of rubber tires, by a cracking, chattering or clattering noise from the exhaust or the creation of tire marks on a roadway accompanying such squealing of tires shall each be considered prima facie evidence of an intent on the part of the operator to violate this section.

(C) Whoever violates any provision of division (A) above shall be deemed guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

#### **§ 72.019 OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS.**

(A) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**GOLF CART.** A vehicle powered by gas or electricity and is the type of vehicle typically operated on a golf course and includes under speed vehicles or low speed vehicles.

**OPERATOR.** Any person who operates or is in actual physical control of a golf cart.

**OWNER.** Any person or entity, other than a lien holder or dealer having title to a golf cart or legal rights to possession thereof.

(B) *Equipment.*

(1) Golf carts operated on the streets, highways and public property within the village shall have a minimum of the following functional equipment thereon:

- (a) At least one working rear red-colored tail light;
- (b) License plates in the front and rear of the golf cart, bracketed to the cart;
- (c) A light to illuminate the rear license plate and make the plate legible from a distance of 50 feet;
- (d) At least one working brake light;
- (e) Two headlights, white or clear in color;
- (f) A horn;
- (g) A rearview mirror;
- (h) A windshield;
- (i) Turn signals;
- (j) One seat belt per occupant of the cart;



(k) A child safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant under the age of four or under 40 pounds in weight; and

(l) A child booster safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant between the ages of four and eight or four feet, nine inches in height.

(2) Whoever violates this division (B) shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined not more than \$100.

(C) *Licensing requirements of operator.*

(1) The operator of a golf cart on public roadways or on public property in the village shall have a valid driver's license.

(2) The operator of a golf cart on public roadways or on public property in the village shall be no less than 16 years of age.

(3) Whoever violates this division (C) shall be guilty of a first degree misdemeanor, and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than six months.

(D) *Insurance requirements of owner and operator.*

(1) The owner of a golf cart that is driven on public roadways or on public property in the village shall carry liability insurance thereon as required by the R.C. § 4509.101(A)(1).

(2) The operator of a golf cart that is driven on public roadways or on public property shall have in his possession proof of insurance while operating the golf cart.

(3) Whoever violates this division (D) shall be guilty of a first degree misdemeanor, and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than six months.

(E) *Inspection and title requirements.*

(1) No person shall operate a golf cart on public roadways or on public property in the village without first obtaining an inspection by the Chief of Police, the County Sheriff or the law enforcement official of another jurisdiction within the state to ensure compliance with state laws and this section.

(2) No person shall operate a golf cart on the public roadways or on public property in the village without a certificate of inspection in his or her possession.

(3) No person shall operate a golf cart on public roadways or on public property without first obtaining a certificate of title from the Clerk of Courts.

(4) Whoever violates this division (E) shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined not more than \$100.

(F) *Prohibited acts.*

(1) No person shall operate a golf cart on public roadways or on public property in the village without first ensuring all occupants are securely seated in a fixed seat and wearing all available elements of a properly adjusted safety belt that is fixed to the vehicle.

(2) No person, being an operator of a golf cart operated on public roadways or on public property in the village, shall fail to wear all available elements of a properly adjusted safety belt that is fixed to the vehicle.

(3) No person, being a passenger of a golf cart operated on public roadways or on public property in the village, shall fail to wear all available elements of a properly adjusted safety belt that is fixed to the vehicle.

(4) No person shall operate a golf cart on a public roadway with a posted speed limit greater than 25 mph unless the vehicle is driven with the right side of the golf cart being within one foot of the right curb or edge of the roadway.

(5) No person shall operate a golf cart on restricted areas of the public bicycle path, except municipal employees operating municipal vehicles in accordance with their duties.

(6) Whoever violates this division (F) shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined accordingly.

(a) A violation of division (F)(1), (F)(4) and (F)(5) above shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined not more than \$100.

(b) A violation of division (F)(2) above shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined not more than \$30.

(c) A violation of division (F)(3) above shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined not more than \$20.

(G) *Accident reports.*

(1) The owner or operator of a golf cart involved in any accident resulting in injury or death to any person shall immediately report the accident to the Police Department.

(2) The owner or operator of a golf cart involved in any accident resulting in damage to the property of any person in excess of \$100 shall report the accident within 24 hours to the Police Department.

(3) Whoever violates this section shall be guilty of a first degree misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than six months.

#### **§ 76.04 PARKING PROHIBITIONS.**

(A) No person shall stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the provisions of this title, or while obeying the directions of a police officer or a traffic-control device, in any of the following places:

(17) Maximum distance from curb or edge of roadway.

(a) Every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there is an adjacent curb or where there is not a curb, to paved edge of the roadway, shall be stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel with and not more than 12 inches from the right-hand curb, or where there is not a curb, to paved edge of the roadway.

(b) Whoever violates this division (A)(17) is guilty of minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$100. This division (A)(17) is in addition to parking regulations in the codified ordinances.

(18) Minimum distance from an intersection.

(a) No person shall stand or park a vehicle, except while obeying the directions of a police officer or a traffic-control device within any intersection or within three feet of any intersections of streets with streets or any intersections of streets with alleys.

(b) That whoever violates this division (A)(18) is guilty of minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$100. This division (A)(18) is in addition to parking regulations in the codified ordinances.

(c) For purposes of this division (A)(18), **INTERSECTION** means:

1. The area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict;

2. Where a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of the divided highway by an intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection. If an intersecting highway also includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of the highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection; and

3. The junction of an alley with a street or highway, or with another alley, shall constitute an **INTERSECTION**.

(19) Inoperative motor vehicle.

(a) 1. For the purpose of this division (A)(19), the term **INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLE** shall be deemed to mean any motor driven vehicle that cannot, physically and lawfully, under its own power, be operated on the public highways of this village, and have remained in an inoperative condition for 72 or more consecutive hours notwithstanding that the said motor driven vehicle is legally licensed by the state.

2. a. No person shall park or stand any inoperative motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts on any dedicated street, alley, sidewalk or other public place at any time.

b. No person shall store or place any inoperative motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts on any property, or allow any inoperative motor vehicle or parts to remain on any property, except to the extent that the inoperative motor vehicle or parts are stored, placed or housed completely within in a building where it shall not be visible from the street or other private property.

3. This division (A)(19) shall not be applicable to properly zoned service garages normally engaged in the business of repairing or servicing automobiles; provided, however, that the persons engaged in the business of repairing automobiles shall store the inoperative motor vehicle in a neat and orderly fashion so as not to constitute a fire hazard or health menace nor create an unsightly appearance.

4. Should a vehicle remain parked in violation of this division (A)(19) for a period of more than 72 consecutive hours after being notified by the village by notice delivered to the owner of the property when the inoperative motor vehicle is located or upon placing a visible notice upon the said inoperative motor vehicle parked on any public street, alley or sidewalk, then in that event, the inoperative motor vehicle shall be considered a nuisance and shall be subject to removal by the village and impounded. The vehicle shall not be released from impound until any and all costs of towing and storage shall be paid.

5. Any peace officer or zoning officer of the village may request the owner of any suspected inoperative motor vehicle to demonstrate that a vehicle appearing to be inoperative is or is not capable of movement legally under its own power. If the owner fails to comply with a request, then, in that case, such a refusal may be considered as prima facie evidence that the said vehicle is an inoperative motor vehicle as defined in this division (A)(19).

(b) Whoever violates this division (A)(19) is guilty of minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$100. Each day constitutes a separate offense. This division (A)(19) is in addition to parking regulations in the codified ordinances.

(B) A person is permitted, without charge or restriction, to stand or park on a sidewalk a motor-driven cycle or motor scooter that has an engine not larger than 150 cubic centimeters, a low-speed micromobility device, or a bicycle or electric bicycle, provided that the motor-driven cycle, motor scooter, low-speed micromobility device, bicycle, or electric bicycle does not impede the normal flow of pedestrian traffic. This division does not authorize any person to operate a vehicle in violation of R.C. § 4511.711, or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in this division (C), whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(R.C. § 4511.68)

(Ord. 23-15, passed 12-21-2015; Ord. 24-15, passed 12-21-2015; Ord. 25-15, passed 12-21-2015; Ord. 02-18, passed 2-12-2018)

### **§ 76.13 PARKING DURING SNOW EMERGENCY.**

(A) A snow emergency exists where freezing rain or two inches or more of snow has fallen whereas constituting a serious public hazard.

(B) During such snow emergency, in order to properly clean the streets, vehicles will be legally parked on all village streets except for the downtown business districts between College Avenue and Jefferson Street and Jackson Street and Vance Street, and any streets which currently restrict parking to one side of the street only, when:

(1) On odd-numbered calendar days, vehicles are parked on the side of the street which has odd-numbered building addresses; and

(2) On even-numbered calendar days, vehicles are parked on the side of the street which has even-numbered building addresses.

(C) No vehicles shall be permitted to park in village parking lots or in the downtown business districts between College Avenue and Jefferson Street and Jackson Street and Vance Street, or any streets which currently restrict parking to one side of the street only, for a longer continuous time than 24 hours until such time that the snow has been cleaned up.

(D) Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle parked in violation of this section, such officer may require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move the same, to a position off the street or parking lot, or such officer may cause the vehicle to be moved or impounded at the owner's expense.

(E) Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and may be fined not in excess of \$100.

### **§ 96.20 REGULATION OF USE OF LOUD AMPLIFICATION SYSTEMS.**

(A) No person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on a street, highway, alley, parking lot or driveway shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system from within the vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 50 or more feet from the vehicle.

(B) No person shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet or more from the location of said sound amplification system.

(C) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**PLAINLY AUDIBLE.** Any sound produced by a sound amplification system which can be heard at a distance of 50 feet or more. Measurement standards shall be by the auditory senses, based upon direct line of sight. Word or phrases need not be discernible and base reverberations are included.

**SOUND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM.** Any radio, tape player, compact disc player, loud speaker or other electronic device used for the amplification of the human voice.

(D) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that the operator was not otherwise prohibited by law from operating the sound amplification system, and that any of the following apply:

(1) The system was being operated to request medical or vehicular assistance or to warn of a hazardous road condition;

(2) The vehicle was an emergency or public safety vehicle;

(3) The vehicle was owned and operated by the village or a gas, electric, communications or refuse company;

(4) The system was used for the purpose of giving instructions, directions, talks, addresses, lectures or transmitting music to any persons or assemblages of persons;

(5) The vehicle was used in authorized public activities, such as parades, fireworks, sports events, musical productions and other activities which have the approval of the department of the village authorized to grant such approval.

(Ord. 17-96, passed 4-22-1996; Ord. 11-99, passed 6-14-1999; Ord. 02-18, passed 2-12-2018) Penalty, see § [96.99](#)

### **§ 132.15 INTOXICATION.**

(A) No person shall be found in the state of intoxication or, being intoxicated, shall disturb the peace and good order or shall conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 15-12, passed 8-27-2012; Ord. 02-18, passed 2-12-2018)

### **§ 139.01 CURFEW.**

(A) It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of 18 years to be upon the public streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks, playgrounds, places of amusement and entertainment, or other unsupervised places between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless the minor is exempted by one or more of the following:

(1) Accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian;

(2) On an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, without any detour or stop;

(3) In a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel;

(4) Engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop;

(5) Involved in an emergency;

(6) On the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence or abutting the residence of a next-door neighbor if the neighbor did not complain to the police department about the minor's presence;

(7) Attending an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the village, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor, or going to or returning home from, without any detour or stop, an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the village, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor;

(8) Exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly; or

(9) Married or had been married or had disabilities of minority removed in accordance with state law.

(B) Whoever, being the parent, guardian or person having the care and custody of a minor, shall allow or permit such minor to violate any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided hereinafter.

(C) Any person who shall aid, abet, influence or encourage a minor to violate any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided hereinafter.

(D) Whoever shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be fined in any sum not to exceed \$50 or imprisoned for not more than three days, or both.

(Ord. 13-72, passed 9-5-1972; Ord. 25-02, passed 9-9-2002; Ord. 03-04, passed 2-9-2004; Ord. 02-18, passed 2-12-2018)

**§ 139.02 REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO CONVICTION OF VANDALS.**

The Council of the village is hereby authorized to pay the sum of \$200 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons responsible for vandalism of any property of the village, including park property and including, but not limited to, any damage to or destruction of trees, shrubs, growing plants and buildings.

(Ord. 7-85, passed 6-4-1985; Ord. 25-02, passed 9-9-2002; Ord. 03-04, passed 2-9-2004; Ord. 02-18, passed 2-12-2018)

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-2025**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON IN SUPPORT OF THE LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION SERVING AS THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO STUDY AREA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS,** the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has named the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Allen County, Ohio Area; and,

**WHEREAS,** the MPO's function is to work collaboratively with ODOT and the FHWA, FTA and the EPA to facilitate the comprehensive transportation planning within Allen County, Ohio; and,

**WHEREAS,** Village of Bluffton is a member also agrees to maintain its membership in the LACRPC and to comply with the Bylaws of the LACRPX and the Bylaws of the Transportation Coordinating Committee and the LACRPC and,

**WHEREAS,** Village of Bluffton agrees to participate in the transportation planning process, and to actively support the public involvement process as it relates to the development and adoption of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Annual Unified Planning Work Program and the publication of an Annual Report.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That Village of Bluffton joins with other political subdivision in Allen County, Ohio in pledging its support and cooperation with such other political subdivisions within Allen County, Ohio of the LACRPC as the MPO for the Lima, Ohio Urbanized Area (Allen County, Ohio).

**Section 2.** That the Village of Bluffton will maintain its membership in LACRPC in compliance with the Bylaws of the LACRPC and the Bylaws of the Transportation Coordinating Committee.

**Section 3.** That the Village of Bluffton shall participate in the transportation planning process and actively support the public involvement process as it relates to the development and adoption of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Annual Unified Planning Work Program and the publication of the Annual Report.

**Section 4.** That the Village of Bluffton will comply with the Bylaws of the LACRPC and the Bylaws of the Transportation Coordinating Committee.

**Section 5.** That the Village of Bluffton understands that any member government may withdraw its agreement and pledge of support for the LACRPC at any time by

adoption of a Resolution indicating that the Village of Bluffton is withdrawing its support for the programs and delivering a copy of the Resolution to the Executive Director of the LACRPC, not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the actual date of withdrawal. The withdrawal shall be effective on the one hundred eightieth (180<sup>th</sup>) day after the date on which the Executive Director receives the copy of the Resolution to withdraw.

**Section 6.** That the presentation of the Resolution to withdraw shall not relieve the withdrawing member of its obligations as a member for the year in which the withdrawal occurs, nor shall the withdrawing party withdraw its area from the study area of the LACRPC during the year of withdrawal.

**Section 7.** That this Resolution shall be effective at the earliest date permitted by law, provided, however, that the Village of Bluffton shall not be bound by the agreements set forth in this Resolution if there is not sufficient participation from the other political subdivisions in the Allen County, Ohio area to make the existence of the LACRPC feasible.

**Section 8.** That the Executive Director of the LACRPC shall, upon receipt of the certified copy of this Resolution, include the Village of Bluffton as a member of the LACRPC and that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to ODOT as testimony of the relationship between the LACRPC and Village of Bluffton.

**Section 9.** That an emergency exists in the operation of the Village whereby failure to act will be detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety of the inhabitants thereof.

**Section 10.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in the open meeting of this Council and that all deliberation of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed and Adopted the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by the governing board of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VILLAGE SOLICITOR



**RESOLUTION NO. 03-2025  
INTRODUCED BY VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OH**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON,  
OH SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S CHALLENGE OF AT&T'S  
TARIFF APPLICATION AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2024, the Ohio Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T Ohio ("AT&T") filed a Telecommunications Form related to a change in its tariff for "Construction Charges, Relocation of Facilities" with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (the "PUCO") in PUCO Case Nos. 24-1123-TP-ATA and 90-5032-TP-TRF (collectively referred to as "AT&T's Tariff Application");

**WHEREAS**, AT&T's Tariff Application proposes tariff changes which will require any municipalities in which AT&T is located in the municipality's public right-of-way to pay the full cost of any relocation or undergrounding of AT&T's facilities, regardless of the reason for the relocation. This is in direct contradiction of current Ohio law;

**WHEREAS**, AT&T's Tariff Application is subject to a thirty-day auto approval process, meaning that if the PUCO does not rule on the application, then the application is automatically approved, and the tariff change becomes effective on the thirty-first day after the filing of the application;

**WHEREAS**, if AT&T's Tariff Application goes unchallenged and becomes automatically effective, municipalities throughout Ohio (and, subsequently, constituents who may or may not be AT&T customers) would be required to pay for any relocation of AT&T facilities in the public rights-of-way, even if the relocation or undergrounding is required for health, safety, or public welfare purposes;

**WHEREAS**, any challenges to AT&T's application must be filed prior to the January 17, 2025, to allow the PUCO to pause the automatic approval process, allow challengers to be heard through an evidentiary hearing, and consider legal arguments. To challenge AT&T's Tariff Application, an interested stakeholder must file a motion to intervene with the PUCO showing that it has a real and substantial interest in AT&T's Tariff Application and the intervener is so situated that the disposition of the proceeding may, as a practical matter, impair or impede its ability to protect that interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Municipal League has engaged counsel to challenge AT&T's Tariff Application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Village Council of the Village of Bluffton, State of Ohio, that:

**SECTION ONE:** Village Council finds that AT&T's Tariff Application directly changes and significantly impacts, to the detriment of the Village, how this Village manages and administers its public rights-of-way;

**SECTION TWO:** Village Council hereby authorizes and agrees to participate in and to intervene in the proceeding at the PUCO in order to challenge AT&T's Tariff Application and any subsequent and/or necessary legal, administrative, legislative efforts; and

**SECTION THREE:** Village Council has been advised by the Ohio Municipal League that future financial and/or other support from them may be necessary to the success of a challenge to AT&T's Tariff Application and any related legal, administrative, or legislative efforts. Village Council may take under consideration the specific amount or form of such financial and/or other support from the Village at a subsequent meeting of this Village Council.

**SECTION FOUR:** The immediate necessity for this action is declared an emergency for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, and for the reasons set forth above, and this resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**SECTION FIVE:** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were made in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in accordance with all legal requirements of the Open Meetings Law including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 by the governing body of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOLICITOR

## Village of Bluffton Planning Commission Meeting – Minutes

January 06, 2025

Meeting called to order: 7:00 pm

Members present: Mayor Richard Johnson, Councilman Mitch Kingsley, Roger Edwards, Tim Essinger, Mitch Agner

Also present: Community Members: Paula Scott

Board of Zoning & Appeals Board Members: Tom Downey, Deron Geiser

Village Administration: Bryan Lloyd, Jesse Blackburn

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### Public Meeting Topics:

#### **I. Proposed Development at 721 N. Main St.**

A.) Attached preliminary plans and zoning analysis were delivered to the Mayor and Village Administrator for Pre-Application Conference with Planning Commission

1. Errors in communication prevented the developers from being able to attend.
2. Attached information was presented to the Planning Commission and those present to become familiar with the project.
3. New date of January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm was set to hold a Pre-Application Conference with developers of this project.

#### **II. Re-Plat of Parkview parcel numbers 28-1100-01-.051 and 28-1100-01-001.050 shown on the following page to allow the combination of these two parcels as submitted by Dean Reichenbach.**

A.) Planning Commission members discussed this request and asked about any precedence in the Parkview Phase II Development.

B.) There were several instances noted where replats and some form of lot combination were approved in this Phase of Parkview Development.

1. The type of replat discussed during the meeting referred to the property at the end of the loop in Phase II which was approved for a lot combination.
  - Upon review of records after the meeting, it was discovered that another type of re-plat with a lot combination of a parcel between two property owners was approved a few lots away from this request.

C.) Mitch Kingsley presented discussion and the following documents about the proposed combining of lots in the Parkview Subdivision. Discussion followed.

D.) Roger Edwards made a motion to approve the replat and lot combination of parcels 28-1100-01-.051 and 28-1100-01-001.050 in Parkview.

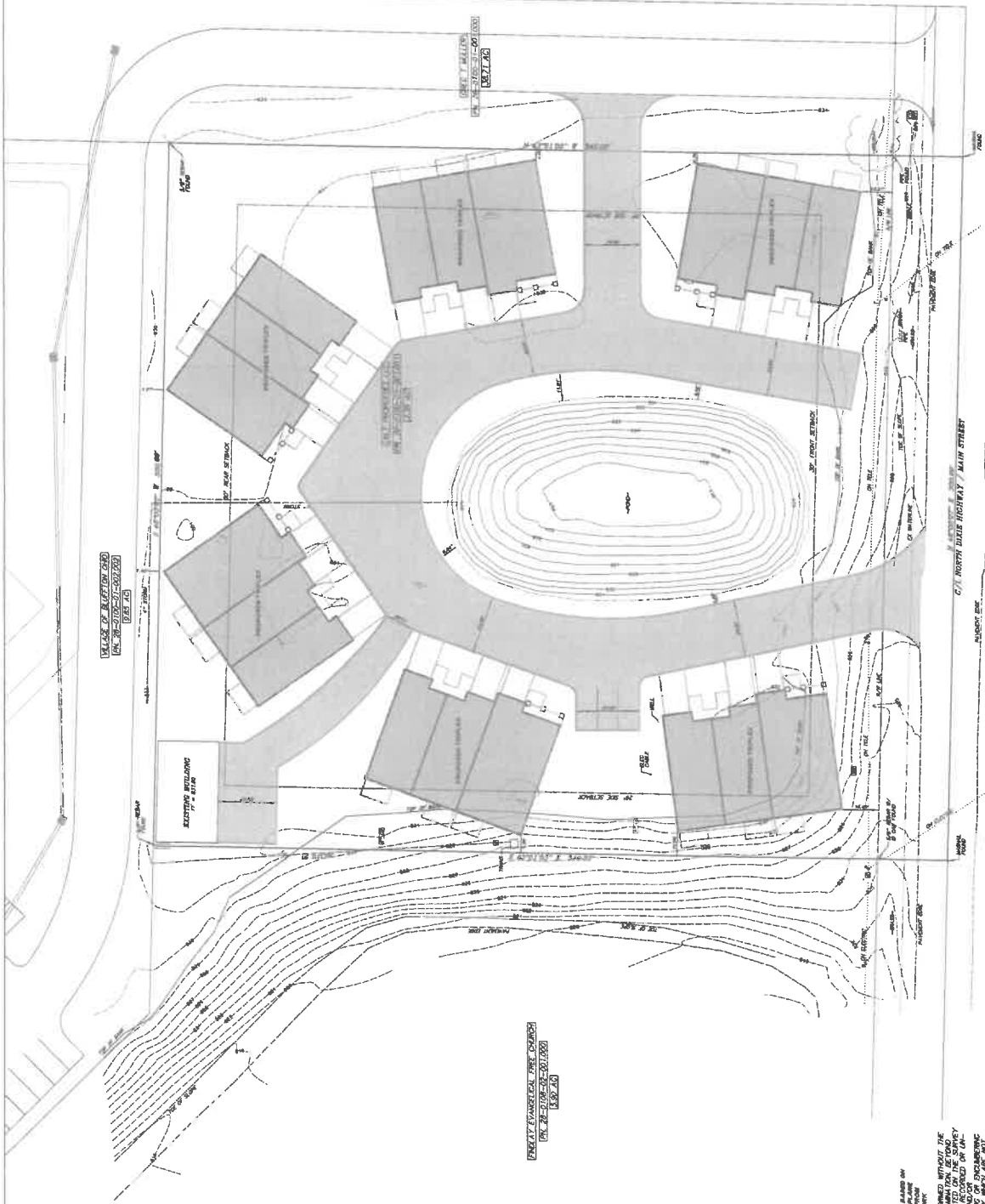
1. Motion was seconded by Tim Essinger.
  - Vote was 3-1 in favor of granting the re-plat.



- III. Zoning District assignment to the 5 parcels annexed from Orange Township into Bluffton was presented as a topic for a future meeting.**
- A.) Parcels will be assigned into the R-I Residential District initially and will be rezoned if decided by the Planning Commission.

**LEGEND**  
 GRAPHIC SCALE 1" = 80'

- WM - WATER MAIN
- WV - WATER VALVE
- WMT - WATER METER
- WMA - WATER METER ALARM
- OW - OVERHEAD
- UG - UNDERGROUND
- UT - UTILITY TRENCH
- T - TELEPHONE POLE
- C - CURB CUT
- FF - FINISHED FLOOR



THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN HAVE BEEN LOCATED BY THE SURVEYOR AND ARE SHOWN AS SHOWN. THE SURVEYOR MAKES NO GUARANTEE THAT THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN ARE ACCURATE. THE SURVEYOR MAKES NO GUARANTEE THAT THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN ARE IN THE EXACT LOCATION ALTHOUGH AS FAR AS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLIENT TO VERIFY THE LOCATION OF ALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION WORK.

THIS SURVEY WAS PERFORMED WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF ANY ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS. THE SURVEYOR HAS REVIEWED THE RECORD PLANS AND HAS FOUND NO CONFLICTS WITH THE RECORD PLANS. THE SURVEYOR HAS REVIEWED THE RECORD PLANS AND HAS FOUND NO CONFLICTS WITH THE RECORD PLANS.

DATE: 11/11/24  
 BY: JWB

DATE: 11/11/24  
 BY: JWB

	R-III Requirements Multi-family	PUD	Proposed Triplex Units
Lot Area (sq. ft.)	2,500 per dwelling unit= 15,000 sq. ft.	6,300 sq. ft. - reduced to 70%	17,061 per dwelling unit = 102,266 sq. ft.
Lot Width	80'	may be varied	309'
Front Yard	30'	Code recommends setbacks be varied	13.2'
Side Yard: Least Width	12'	"	4'
Side Yard: Sum	26'	"	11'
Rear Yard	40'	Code recommends setbacks be varied	1'
Floor Area	600 sq. ft. per unit	525 sq. ft. per unit	1,129 - 1,549 sq. ft. per unit
Common Space		20%	none shown

153.266 (B)(3)(b) Code requires any PUD less than 10 acres shall:	
1. meet R-1 density requirements	18 units at 8,000 sq ft each = 144,000 sq. ft. required
2. maintain a 30 ft. setback from all properties and ROWs	30' setback is not met on any side of property

## **Proposed combining of Lots in Parkview Subdivision.**

**Why I am against combining these lots:** (28-1100-01+001.050 and 28-1100-01-001.051)

These two lots were already enlarged from their original design when Three S Development had Peterman Associates record Phase II of Parkview (OR 2020/Pg 5821, Recorded June 6, 2020).

Making one lot out of these two means one less residence in the Village. This means an annual loss of tax revenue to Bluffton of approximately \$6,000 and to the State of another \$3,000+ (calculations on next page). It means the rest of us have to make up that difference when it comes to replacing waterlines, sanitary sewer/storm sewer, roads and other utilities.

In addition to the costs to the rest of us we need to consider a bunch of intangibles that make up the quality of life in Bluffton. By and large our Village is made up of walkable, cohesive neighborhoods. This means we know each other and pull together on a wide variety of things, like our Senior Citizens Center, our hospital, our downtown events and our businesses. People volunteer because they know each other and see each other.

When we make our developments all spacey and spread out, there are less people, they don't see each other as often, and mostly they drive everywhere. Less people means less shoppers downtown, less people using the hospital, less people coming to sports and cultural events. The math of larger lots means less people and less revenue for the Village. We should not go there.

By keeping lots smaller and separate, our Village can accommodate more residents within the same footprint. This means walkable, cohesive neighborhoods that support local businesses, local schools, local hospitals, local library; in short, a community.

Mitchell Kingsley

Calculations:

### 1. Property Tax

Property taxes are assessed based on the home's market value. Bluffton is in Allen County, Ohio, and property tax rates can vary, but the effective property tax rate in Ohio averages about **1.56%** of the home's value annually.

- **Home Purchase Price:** \$300,000
- **Estimated Annual Property Tax:**  
 $\$300,000 \times 1.56\% = \$4,680$

### 2. Income Tax

Bluffton has a municipal income tax rate of **1.25%**. Additionally, Ohio's state income tax is progressive, and for an income of \$90,000, the marginal tax rate falls around **3.688%** (as of recent rates). Let's calculate:

- **Municipal Income Tax:**  
 $\$90,000 \times 1.25\% = \$1,125$
- **State Income Tax (approximation):**  
Using a marginal rate of 3.688% and standard deductions:  
 $\$90,000 \times 3.688\% = \$3,319.20$

### Total Estimated Tax Revenue

- **Property Tax:** \$4,680
- **Municipal Income Tax:** \$1,125
- **State Income Tax:** \$3,319.20  
**Total Annual Tax Revenue: \$9,124.20**



# Village of Bluffton

## Administration's Report

To: Mayor Johnson & Council Members



01-13-25

### CURRENT PROJECTS:

- **Pocono Drive Utility Improvements Project:**

Final payment is in the packet for approval. Project was completed \$13,380 under budget. Thanks to efforts from Bluffton PWD and Beaverdam Contracting to provide another quality project for our community.

### FUTURE PROJECTS:

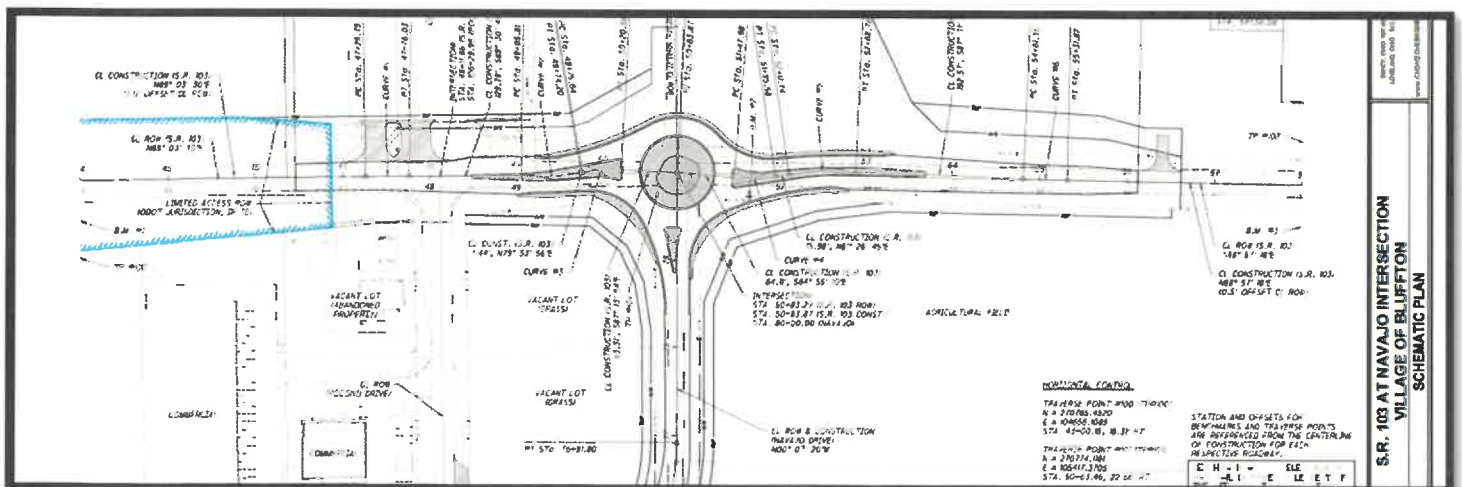
- **Enbridge Gas Main Replacement/Upsizing**

Project could be starting as early as 1/21/25.



- **S.R. 103 – Navajo Drive Roundabout:**

- ✓ Construction planned to begin June '25 and occur in three phases to last approx. 11 months
- ✓ Will affect through traffic on S.R. 103 but allow access to all businesses
- ✓ Request Motion from Council to approve the attached MOU between Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative and the Village of Bluffton for the relocation of overhead and underground electric distribution lines



- **Bluffton Airport Taxi Lane Reconstruction**

Seven (7) bids were opened on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Bids are under review by Richland Engineering with analysis to be completed later this week.

**Brush Grinding**

Request a motion from Village Council to approve the attached brush grinding quote from Tawa Mulch & Landscape Supply, Findlay, OH.

**Committee Meetings:**

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** ("MOU") is entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 by and between **HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**, an Ohio nonprofit electric cooperative ("HWEC") and **VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON** ("VILLAGE"), an OHIO municipality, collectively referred to herein as the "Parties".

**WHEREAS**, VILLAGE has requested HWEC to relocate its overhead & underground electric distribution lines along State Route 103 & Navajo Drive in Orange Township, Hancock County, and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 75% of said electric distribution lines are within private easement, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties agree to undertake the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants and agreements contained in this MOU, and other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **Relocation of Electric Distribution.** HWEC shall be responsible for the Project consisting of a complete line relocation, in accordance with industry standards, any applicable laws or regulations, and the attached EXHIBIT A – Scope of Work.
2. **Fixed Fee.** HWEC shall be entitled to a fixed fee for performing the work associated with the Project as described in Section 1 herein ("Fixed Fee"). The Parties shall mutually agree upon the specific amount of the Fixed Fee, which shall be set forth in the Scope of Work.
3. **Payment Terms.** HWEC shall cover the upfront cost of the Project, which shall be a part of the Fixed Fee. VILLAGE shall pay the Fixed Fee to HWEC following the completion of the Project. Such Fixed Fee shall be collected through a single payment 30 days from invoice.
4. **Completion Date.** HWEC shall complete the Project no later than twelve (12) months after the Parties have fully agreed upon the Scope of Work. Time is of the essence in the performance of this MOU, and the Parties shall use their reasonable efforts to ensure timely completion.
5. **Additional Fees.**
  - a. **Project Termination:** If the VILLAGE terminates the Project for any reason prior to the Project completion, the VILLAGE shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred by HWEC up to the date of termination ("Partial Costs").

Such Partial Costs shall be collected through a single payment 30 days from invoice.

b. Scope Change: VILLAGE shall be solely responsible for any additional costs that exceed the Fixed Fee incurred because of a material change in the scope of the Project, which shall be agreed upon by the Parties in writing.

6. Successors and Assigns. This MOU shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the respective Parties. No assignment of this MOU shall be valid without the prior written consent of the non-assigning party.

7. Entire Agreement. This MOU contains the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior oral or written understandings relating hereto. No modification or termination, or any waiver of any provision, of this MOU shall be valid or effective unless in writing and signed by the party or parties sought to be charged therewith.

8. Governing Law and Jurisdiction/Venue. This MOU for all purposes shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the State of Ohio without regard to choice of law principles. Any disputes arising hereunder shall be resolved through the state and federal courts of competent jurisdiction of Hancock County, Ohio.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties, intending to be legally bound, have executed this MOU as of the date first above written.

**HWEC:**

**VILLAGE:**

**HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT A – Scope of Work**

### **1. Project Background**

VILLAGE is proposing a single-lane roundabout on State Route 103 at the intersection with Navajo Drive, and the reconstruction on Navajo Drive from State Route 103 moving south and then west to the intersection of Pocono Drive. VILLAGE is asking HWEC to relocate its electric distribution lines currently located south of State Route 103 and west of Navajo Drive. The proposed relocation is west of the reconstructed Navajo Drive, within public right-of-way, approximately 60ft east of its current centerline.



Figure 1 – Project Area

### **2. Project Scope**

HWEC or its contractor will relocate its overhead electric distribution lines along State Route 103 to underground, and relocate its underground electric distribution lines, including all material and labor, east per VILLAGE request to public right-of-way accommodate proposed roundabout and Navajo Drive reconstruction.

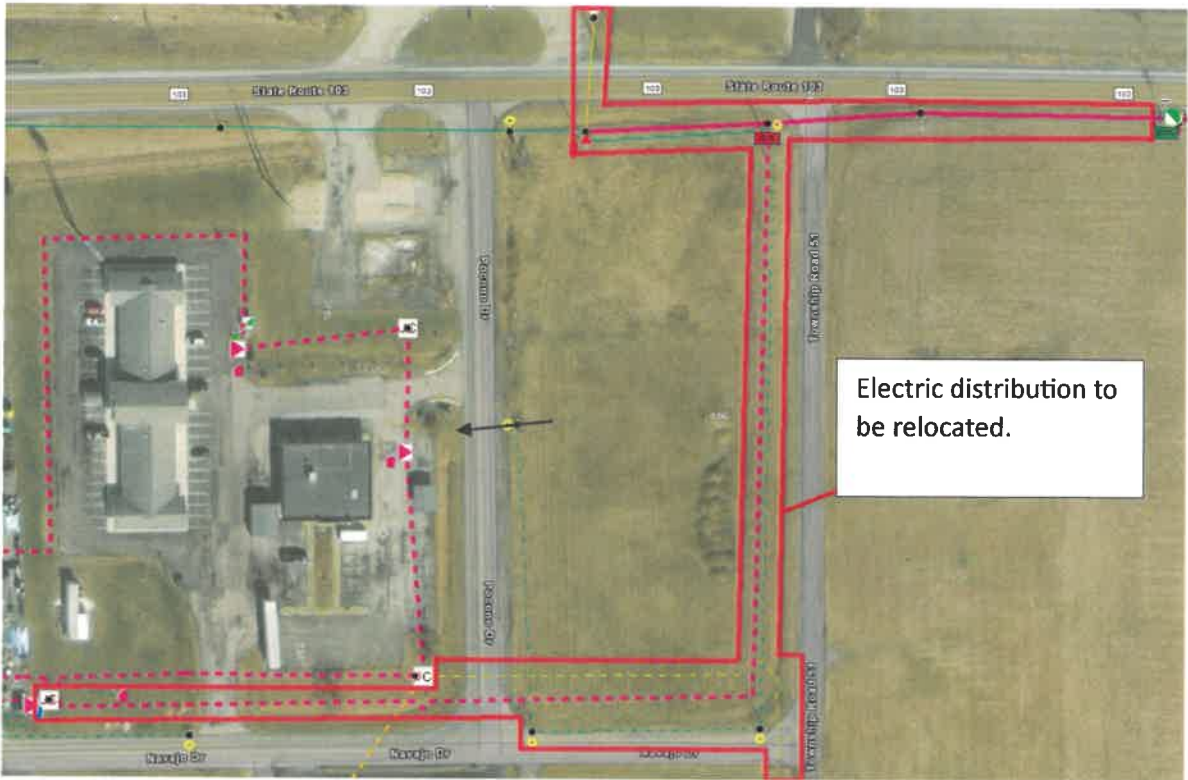


Figure 2 – Existing Electric Distribution Lines (For Visual Purposes Only)

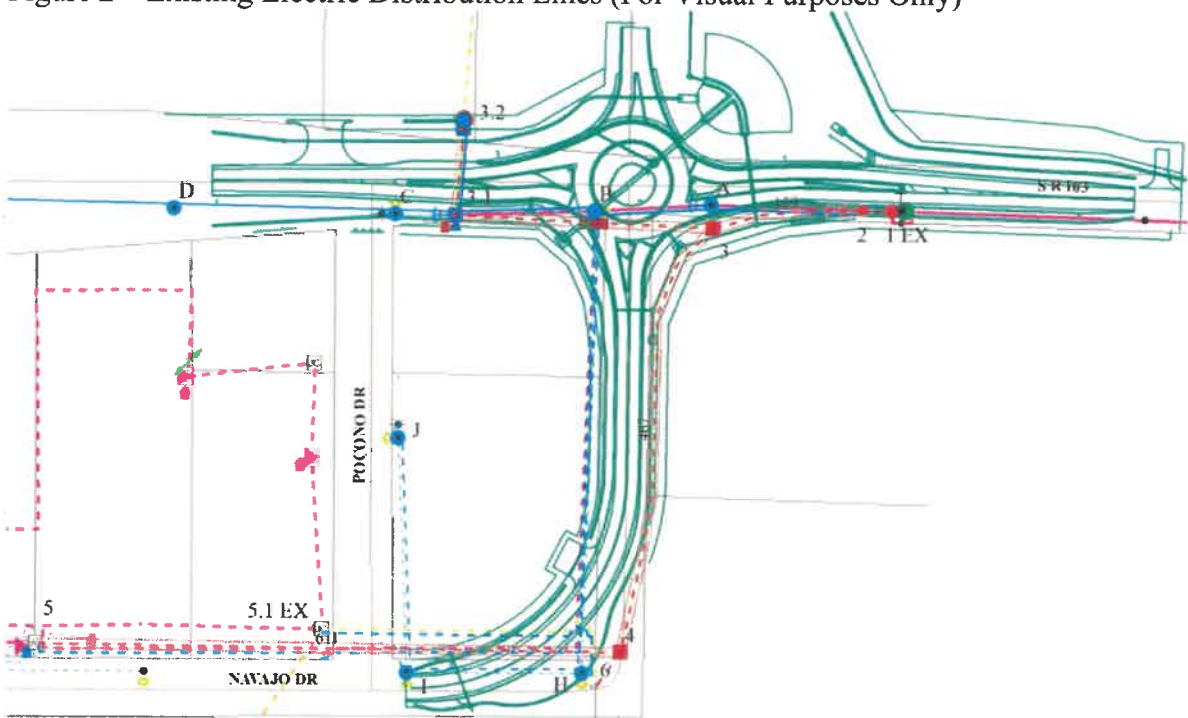


Figure 3 – Proposed Electric Relocation, Roundabout, and Navajo Dr. (For Visual Purposes Only)

### **3. Exclusions from Scope**

HWEC assumes the following VILLAGE responsibilities:

- Construction & ROW staking.
- Reasonable access to the project area.

### **4. Other Documents Required**

HWEC requires the following project supporting documentation:

- Final road construction drawings in CAD applicable to HWEC's proposed work.

### **5. Fixed Fee**

HWEC's Fixed Fee for this work shall not exceed \$230,000. HWEC agrees to cover 25% of the Fixed Fee.







January 9, 2025

City of Bluffton  
P.O. Box 63  
154 N. Main St.  
Bluffton, OH 45817

Reference: January 2025 Brush Grinding

Based on our inspection of your compost site on January 8, 2025, we agree to single grind (primary grinding) the brush pile. Re grind (second grinding with 2" screens) 60% of the remaining material **for a lump sum of \$17,385.00.**

If awarded the contract, we also agree to haul the remaining primary ground material off site at no additional cost. This is a discounted price and will only be valid this year.

We can start this work within the next two weeks.

Notes:

1. Mobilization is included in the estimated cost.
2. TAWA Mulch Co. provides this estimated cost with the understanding the materials are wood and/or leaves-based products and the said material to grind is free of foreign debris. (Mainly large hard metal objects)
3. Payment due within 30 days of completion



If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 419-615-9328. Once this agreement is signed and returned to our office, I will be in contact with you to schedule the project.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely Submitted:

Adam Miller, Project Manager

Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_



**BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**154 N. MAIN STREET**  
**BLUFFTON, OHIO 45817**  
**(419) 358-2961**  
**FAX (419) 358-8137**



Date: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Burkholder

Reference: Surplus Items

I am requesting to surplus a 2020 Ford Explorer rear partition and rear cage that is no longer serviceable for the department's needs. The request would include allowing the items to be placed on GOV deals.

Respectfully,

  
Chief Burkholder



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**Date:** January 3, 2025

**To:** Mayor Johnson and Council

**From:** Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

**Reference:** Police Department Monthly Report

### POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

December 2024

Police Calls for Service- 535

Police Chief Calls for Service- 67

Traffic Stops - 39

### CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Animal Complaint	-	1
Mental Health	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	5
Persistent Disorderly Conduct	-	1
No Operators License	-	1
Theft	-	1
Underage Consumption - Juvenile Offense	-	1
Warrant Service	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>





# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 01/07/2025 11:31  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100  
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Accident Property	2	3.2	6	9.5	2	3.2	6	9.5	5	7.9	5	7.9	1	1.6	5	7.9	9	14.3	7	11.1	10	15.9	5	7.9	63	7.9
Accident w/Injuries	0	0.0	1	6.7	0	0.0	1	6.7	1	6.7	4	26.7	0	0.0	2	13.3	1	6.7	0	0.0	1	6.7	4	26.7	15	18.8
Administrative	184	10.2	249	13.9	127	7.1	96	5.3	105	5.8	150	8.3	113	6.3	139	7.7	161	9.0	222	12.4	139	7.7	112	6.2	1797	22.1
Aiding Other	13	7.4	10	5.7	13	7.4	17	9.7	13	7.4	21	12.0	15	8.6	17	9.7	18	10.3	15	8.6	7	4.0	16	9.1	175	2.2
Alarm	8	9.1	8	9.1	8	9.1	7	8.0	7	8.0	4	4.5	10	11.4	9	10.2	8	9.1	4	4.5	4	4.5	11	12.5	88	1.1
Animal Complaint	2	6.5	3	9.7	3	9.7	3	9.7	1	3.2	3	9.7	2	6.5	1	3.2	4	12.9	2	6.5	4	12.9	3	9.7	31	0.4
Assist Police	8	5.8	9	6.5	12	8.6	14	10.1	10	7.2	14	10.1	17	12.2	19	13.7	10	7.2	8	5.8	12	8.6	6	4.3	139	1.7
B&E	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0
Child Abuse	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Civil Complaint	0	0.0	1	4.3	4	17.4	3	13.0	1	4.3	1	4.3	2	8.7	5	21.7	1	4.3	3	13.0	2	8.7	0	0.0	23	0.3
Criminal Damage	2	12.5	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	3	18.8	2	12.5	1	6.3	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	0.2
Damage to	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Deceased	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	0	0.0	6	0.0
Domestic	2	16.7	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	8.3	1	8.3	0	0.0	2	16.7	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.3	3	25.0	12	0.1
Drug Abuse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Escort	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	9	0.1
Felonious Assault	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Fight Complaint	0	0.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	3	30.0	3	30.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.1
Follow Up	0	0.0	32	36.8	5	5.7	6	6.9	10	11.5	15	17.2	3	3.4	0	0.0	1	1.1	5	5.7	4	4.6	6	6.9	87	1.1
Hazmat	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	28.6	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	0.0
Hit Skip	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	9	0.1
House/Building	210	9.3	215	9.5	223	9.9	216	9.6	162	7.2	156	6.9	178	7.9	151	6.7	85	3.8	131	5.8	288	12.7	246	10.9	2261	28.1
Indecent Exposure	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Intoxicated Driver	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Investigate Vehicle	17	6.1	22	7.9	38	13.7	22	7.9	18	6.5	27	9.7	22	7.9	20	7.2	23	8.3	21	7.6	30	10.8	18	6.5	278	3.5
K9 Request	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0



# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 01/07/2025 11:31  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100  
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Lock Out	6	9.0	6	9.0	4	6.0	11	16.4	5	7.5	5	7.5	3	4.5	5	7.5	6	9.0	4	6.0	7	10.4	5	7.5	67
Medical Call - BLS	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Menacing	0	0.0	3	25.0	2	16.7	2	16.7	2	16.7	0	0.0	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.3	0	0.0	12
Mentally Ill Person	1	5.3	6	31.6	3	15.8	2	10.5	1	5.3	1	5.3	2	10.5	1	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	1	5.3	19
Miscellaneous	45	7.0	53	8.3	49	7.7	57	8.9	90	14.1	55	8.6	48	7.5	45	7.0	40	6.3	46	7.2	68	10.6	44	6.9	640
Missing Adult	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Missing Juvenile	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Motorist Assist	4	8.0	3	6.0	6	12.0	7	14.0	9	18.0	4	8.0	3	6.0	3	6.0	2	4.0	6	12.0	0	0.0	3	6.0	50
Paper Service	2	11.8	0	0.0	1	5.9	0	0.0	2	11.8	1	5.9	2	11.8	0	0.0	2	11.8	1	5.9	4	23.5	2	11.8	17
Pedestrian Stop	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	2	28.6	2	28.6	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Prowler	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Range Training	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Receiving/Recover	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Shoplifting	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Shots Fired	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Stolen Vehicle	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Suspicious Person	2	3.3	5	8.2	5	8.2	7	11.5	9	14.8	5	8.2	8	13.1	2	3.3	5	8.2	6	9.8	5	8.2	2	3.3	61
Telephone	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	4
Theft	0	0.0	6	15.0	0	0.0	3	7.5	7	17.5	5	12.5	2	5.0	9	22.5	4	10.0	2	5.0	1	2.5	1	2.5	40
Traffic Stop	37	5.9	38	6.1	62	9.9	38	6.1	32	5.1	46	7.3	58	9.3	82	13.1	65	10.4	73	11.6	57	9.1	39	6.2	627
Unruly Juvenile	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Unsecured Door	2	12.5	2	12.5	2	12.5	3	18.8	0	0.0	2	12.5	1	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	16
Unwanted Guest	2	8.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	6	24.0	7	28.0	0	0.0	3	12.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	1	4.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	25
Violating PTO	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Warrant Service	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2



# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 01/07/2025 11:31  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
ORI Number: OH0020100  
Incident Type: All

Total:	552	8.3	691	10.4	576	8.7	541	8.1	513	7.7	536	8.1	506	7.6	522	7.8	454	6.8	572	8.6	655	9.8	535	8.0	6653
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# Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 01/07/2025 11:42  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Statute: All

From Date: 01/01/2024  
 To Date: 12/31/2024  
 Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
<b>Parking</b>													
4511.69F Handicap Parking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
4511.68A14 PARKING WHERE SIGNS PROHIBIT	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
4511.69C PARKING FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Parking Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Warning</b>													
4511.21B6 Speed 50 MPH (also 45 MPH)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	5
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4511.73A Driving over unprotected fire hose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.75A Stopping for School Bus	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.68A14 PARKING WHERE SIGNS PROHIBIT	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	7
4511.69C PARKING FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
73.10(B)(2) Speed 25 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
72.032(A) Fail to Yield Stop Sign	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Warning Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>



# Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 01/07/2025 11:42  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Statute: All

From Date: 01/01/2024  
 To Date: 12/31/2024  
 Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100

Traffic	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
4511.69F Handicap Parking	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
4511.29 Overtaking, Passing to Left of Center	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4513.23A Rearview Mirrors Required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.21B6 Speed 50 MPH (also 45 MPH)	0	3	0	0	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	12
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	8	0	0	0	15
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	3	3	3	5	0	3	3	0	0	3	23
4511.21B1a Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
4511.202A Reasonable Control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
4511.44(A) Failure to Yield the Right of Way - Any Other Place (Driveways)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4511.42A Failure to yield the right of way when turning left	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
4513.241C WINDOW TINT	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	9
4503.11A Expired License Plates	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
4511.69C PARKING FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
4511.12A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21A SPEED/ACDA	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
4511.19 DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4510.111A Driving Under Suspension - License Forfeiture	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4510.21A Failure to Reinstate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4510.11A Driving Under Suspension	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
4510.12A1 No Drivers License (NO OL)	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
<b>Traffic Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>137</b>



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Date: December 23, 2024

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

**POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

**November**

Police Calls for Service- 655

Police Chief Calls for Service- 111

Traffic Stops -57

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS**

Mental Health	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	4
No Operators License	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>



# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 12/23/2024 11:24  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100  
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Accident Property	2	3.2	6	9.5	2	3.2	6	9.5	5	7.9	5	7.9	1	1.6	5	7.9	9	14.3	7	11.1	10	15.9	5	7.9	63
Accident w/Injuries	0	0.0	1	7.1	0	0.0	1	7.1	1	7.1	4	28.6	0	0.0	2	14.3	1	7.1	0	0.0	1	7.1	3	21.4	14
Administrative	184	10.6	249	14.4	127	7.3	96	5.5	105	6.1	150	8.6	113	6.5	139	8.0	161	9.3	222	12.8	139	8.0	50	2.9	1735
Aiding Other	13	7.6	10	5.9	13	7.6	17	10.0	13	7.6	21	12.4	15	8.8	17	10.0	18	10.6	15	8.8	7	4.1	11	6.5	170
Alarm	8	9.1	8	9.1	8	9.1	7	8.0	7	8.0	4	4.5	10	11.4	9	10.2	8	9.1	4	4.5	4	4.5	11	12.5	88
Animal Complaint	2	6.5	3	9.7	3	9.7	3	9.7	1	3.2	3	9.7	2	6.5	1	3.2	4	12.9	2	6.5	4	12.9	3	9.7	31
Assist Police	8	5.8	9	6.5	12	8.7	14	10.1	10	7.2	14	10.1	17	12.3	19	13.8	10	7.2	8	5.8	12	8.7	5	3.6	138
B&E	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Child Abuse	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Civil Complaint	0	0.0	1	4.3	4	17.4	3	13.0	1	4.3	1	4.3	2	8.7	5	21.7	1	4.3	3	13.0	2	8.7	0	0.0	23
Criminal Damage	2	12.5	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	3	18.8	2	12.5	1	6.3	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	16
Damage to	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Deceased	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	0	0.0	6
Domestic	2	18.2	1	9.1	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1	0	0.0	2	18.2	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	11
Drug Abuse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	8
Escort	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	2	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Felonious Assault	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10
Fight Complaint	0	0.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	3	30.0	3	30.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10
Follow Up	0	0.0	32	36.8	5	5.7	6	6.9	10	11.5	15	17.2	3	3.4	0	0.0	1	1.1	5	5.7	4	4.6	6	6.9	87
Hazmat	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	28.6	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	7
Hit Skip	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	9
House/Building	210	9.5	215	9.7	223	10.1	216	9.8	162	7.3	156	7.1	178	8.1	151	6.8	85	3.8	131	5.9	288	13.0	194	8.8	2209
Indecent Exposure	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Intoxicated Driver	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Investigate Vehicle	17	6.2	22	8.1	38	13.9	22	8.1	18	6.6	27	9.9	22	8.1	20	7.3	23	8.4	21	7.7	30	11.0	13	4.8	273
K9 Request	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2



# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 12/23/2024 11:24  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100  
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Lock Out	6	9.1	6	9.1	4	6.1	11	16.7	5	7.6	5	7.6	3	4.5	5	7.6	6	9.1	4	6.1	7	10.6	4	6.1	66
Medical Call - BLS	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Menacing	0	0.0	3	25.0	2	16.7	2	16.7	2	16.7	0	0.0	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.3	0	0.0	12
Mentally Ill Person	1	5.3	6	31.6	3	15.8	2	10.5	1	5.3	1	5.3	2	10.5	1	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	1	5.3	19
Miscellaneous	45	7.1	53	8.4	49	7.7	57	9.0	90	14.2	55	8.7	48	7.6	45	7.1	40	6.3	46	7.3	68	10.7	38	6.0	634
Missing Adult	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Missing Juvenile	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Motorist Assist	4	8.2	3	6.1	6	12.2	7	14.3	9	18.4	4	8.2	3	6.1	3	6.1	2	4.1	6	12.2	0	0.0	2	4.1	49
Paper Service	2	11.8	0	0.0	1	5.9	0	0.0	2	11.8	1	5.9	2	11.8	0	0.0	2	11.8	1	5.9	4	23.5	2	11.8	17
Pedestrian Stop	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	2	28.6	2	28.6	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Prowler	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Range Training	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Receiving/Recover	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Shoplifting	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Shots Fired	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Stolen Vehicle	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	5
Suspicious Person	2	3.3	5	8.2	5	8.2	7	11.5	9	14.8	5	8.2	8	13.1	2	3.3	5	8.2	6	9.8	5	8.2	2	3.3	61
Telephone	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	4
Theft	0	0.0	6	15.0	0	0.0	3	7.5	7	17.5	5	12.5	2	5.0	9	22.5	4	10.0	2	5.0	1	2.5	1	2.5	40
Traffic Stop	37	5.9	38	6.1	62	9.9	38	6.1	32	5.1	46	7.4	58	9.3	82	13.1	65	10.4	73	11.7	57	9.1	36	5.8	624
Unruly Juvenile	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Unsecured Door	2	12.5	2	12.5	2	12.5	3	18.8	0	0.0	2	12.5	1	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	16
Unwanted Guest	2	8.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	6	24.0	7	28.0	0	0.0	3	12.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	1	4.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	25
Violating PTO	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Warrant Service	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2



# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 12/23/2024 11:24  
Login ID: tburkholder  
Year: 2024

Bluffton Police Department  
ORI Number: OH0020100  
Incident Type: All

Total:	552	8.5	691	10.6	576	8.8	541	8.3	513	7.9	536	8.2	506	7.8	522	8.0	454	7.0	572	8.8	655	10.1	396	6.1	6514
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# Ticket Summary

Print Date/Time: 12/23/2024 11:29  
 Login ID: rburkholder

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100

As Of Date: 12/23/2024

Statute Description	Current Month		Year to Date	
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
Confining, restraining, debarking dog; dangerous dog registration	0	0	0	1
Driving over unprotected fire hose	0	0	1	0
Driving Under Suspension	1	0	1	0
Driving Under Suspension - FRA	0	0	0	2
Driving Under Suspension - License Forfeiture	0	0	1	1
Driving Under Suspension - OVI	0	0	0	1
DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS	0	0	1	0
Expired License Plates	0	0	5	8
Fail to Yield Stop Sign	0	0	3	5
Failure to Control - Weaving Course	0	0	0	1
FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	1	1	2
Failure to Reinstate	0	0	1	1
Failure to Stop After Accident	0	1	0	1
Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	0	4	6
Failure to Yield the Right of Way - Any Other Place (Driveways)	0	0	1	2
Failure to yield the right of way when turning left	0	0	1	0
Handicap Parking	0	0	9	6
Lanes of Travel - Driving on the Right	0	0	0	1
Lights required at Dark	0	0	0	2
No Drivers License (NO OL)	0	0	7	7
Obedience to Traffic Control Devices	0	0	0	1
Overtaking, Passing to Left of Center	0	0	1	0
OVI	0	0	0	1
OVI Over .17 - Breath	0	0	0	1
PARKING FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC	0	0	5	7
PARKING WHERE SIGNS PROHIBIT	0	1	11	6
Plates from Another Vehicle	0	0	0	1
Prohibited Standing / Parking Places - Safety Zone	0	0	0	1
Rearview Mirrors Required	0	0	1	0
Reasonable Control	0	0	2	2
Reckless Operation on public Road	0	0	0	1
Right-of-Way When Turning Left	0	0	0	1
Speed	0	0	0	3
Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	0	0	5	6
Speed 25 MPH	3	1	28	5
Speed 25 MPH	0	0	1	1
Speed 35 MPH	0	0	17	5
Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	1
Speed 50 MPH (also 45 MPH)	0	0	13	0
Speed 55 MPH	0	0	0	1
Speed 65 MPH	0	0	0	1
SPEED/ACDA	1	0	3	3
Stopping After Accident - Other than Public Road	0	1	0	1
Stopping for School Bus	0	1	5	6
Tail Lights and Illumination of Rear License Plate	0	0	0	1
Traffic Control Device (Red Light)	0	0	0	1
WINDOW TINT	0	1	9	2
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>106</b>

Ohio Attorney General's  
**Consumer Advocate Newsletter**  
Keeping Consumers Safe and Informed



**December 2024**



### **Last-minute holiday shoppers: Beware of scams**

Last-minute holiday shopping is all but inevitable. These tips can help you make smart, secure purchases and avoid scams.

- **Do your research.**
  - Before buying, take a moment to research the product(s) you're looking for and current sales. Compare any deals carefully, checking ads for important exclusions or limitations. Restrictions might involve the number of sale items available or promotion times and dates.



- Read online reviews to learn about other shoppers' experiences, both good and bad. Check reviews on multiple websites to ensure credibility.
- Think and act skeptically if you find a hard-to-find item at a great price. Live by the maxim "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."
- **Keep cybersecurity in mind.**
  - When shopping online, don't use free public Wi-Fi; others may be able to view and capture your credit-card number and other sensitive information.
  - To ensure that a site is secure, look for the "s" in "https" in the address bar. Always make sure that the site you're on is the company's official site; knockoff sites often have small misspellings or variations in the web address.
  - Before making an online purchase, carefully review the expected delivery date and shipping costs. Also, use credit cards instead of debit cards or other payment methods because credit cards generally have more consumer protections.
- **Monitor your accounts.**
  - Regularly check your bank and credit-card accounts for unauthorized charges or unexpected activity. If you notice anything unusual, immediately notify your credit-card provider or bank. The sooner you identify a problem, the sooner you can work to correct it.
- **Watch out for business impersonation scams.**
  - Unexpected calls or emails claiming that you have purchased an item should raise a red flag. Verify unfamiliar "purchases" directly with the retailer using contact information from the company's official website.
  - Do not call back the number on your caller ID or the phone number mentioned in the message.
- **Be smart when buying gift cards.**
  - Ensure that the security film on a gift card hasn't been scratched or replaced. Scammers tamper with cards to steal funds.
  - Be sure to monitor the delivery of gift cards to prevent theft.
  - Mail gift cards directly from a post office; don't use an unlocked mailbox.
- **Don't be a victim to package-tracking scams.**
  - A package-tracking scam may involve an email alert informing you of a "delay" in the shipping of a package. The email either asks you to provide personal information or click on a link for additional information. Providing personal information, however, could lead to financial harm, and clicking on suspicious links can infect your device with malicious software.

- Keep both your shipping confirmation emails and a list of the retailers from which you've ordered.
- Don't click on links or download any attachments if you're unsure whether the sender is legitimate. If you have questions or want to verify an email supposedly from that shipper, contact the shipping company using the contact information on its official website.

One additional tip: Be sure to promptly retrieve delivered packages to prevent them from being stolen or damaged outside your door.

*Consumers who believe they have been defrauded should immediately report the details and contact the company used to make the payment. Ohioans can report scams to the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or by calling 800-282-0515.*

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## Tech toys for kids raise privacy, safety concerns

If you're shopping for internet-connected technology toys for kids, it is essential to understand the privacy and safety issues. Internet-connected toys range from wearable devices to interactive games and robots. To protect your child's privacy and safety, follow these tips:

- **Check age appropriateness:** Make sure the toy is suitable for someone of your child's age. For video games, check the content ratings provided by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) at [www.esrb.org](http://www.esrb.org).
- **Understand toy features:** Be aware of interactive features such as cameras, microphones and internet connectivity. Learn the default settings for each function.
- **Familiarize yourself with parental controls:** Parental controls should be included in the product. Under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), parents may have control over what personal information the toy or app collects.
- **Do your research:** Check trusted sources, such as online parental blogs, for known security issues related to the toy.
- **Be present during setup:** If personal information is required, use nicknames or alternative details to reduce the risk of identifying your child.
- **Set privacy settings:** *Opt in* to safeguards, *block* access to chat rooms and *enable* parental controls. Regularly update the toy's software and check the settings.
- **Interact with the toy:** Learn how the toy operates. Discuss online safety, risky behaviors and in-app purchases with your child.
- **Use strong passwords:** Create unique, strong passwords for each account. Avoid connecting the toy to free public Wi-Fi, as it may be less secure than a home network. Always log out before shutting down the toy.
- **Establish rules for device use:** Discuss how to report inappropriate behavior online. Set house rules about where and when devices can be used, as well as limits on daily screen time.

*For additional resources, the Federal Trade Commission offers [free online publications](#) to help keep kids safe online.*

For more general cybersecurity tips, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) and review the [Cybersecurity Help, Information and Protection Program \(CHIPP\) booklet](#) as well as [Social Media Pointers for Parents](#).

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## Be careful where you click

The digital age has made life more convenient, with phones being used to pay for parking, view restaurant menus and much more. But such convenience comes with risks, as scammers exploit websites, emails, text messages, QR codes and other digital tools to steal personal or financial information.

Fraudulent QR codes are a growing problem. Scammers can place a sticker over a legitimate QR code to get you to a website where they can steal personal information, including your credit-card numbers.

The Better Business Bureau has reported that phony QR codes on parking signs have directed some consumers to scam websites when they try to pay. Also, if you scan a QR code that gives you a link to a spoofed site, that site could try to download spyware, ransomware or other malicious software to your device.

In any situation, if a QR code appears to have been tampered with or is covering up another QR code, *do not* click the link that the QR code populates. Always inspect the link generated by the QR code and, if anything seems amiss, *do not click it*.

For additional protection, consumers should consider downloading a QR code reader app on their device instead of just using a device camera to decipher the QR code. Some QR code readers warn users about websites that are likely designed by scammers.

Besides using phony QR codes, many fraudsters continue to send suspicious links via email or text message. Here are additional signs that correspondence you have received may be a scam:

- The link asks you for personal identifiable information.
- You are pressured to act immediately.
- Payment is sought by gift card, cryptocurrency, peer-to-peer payment (i.e. Venmo or Cash App), wire transfer or prepaid money card.
- You're told not to tell friends or family about a conversation or exchange.
- You're told that you've won something you didn't enter to win, or you're unexpectedly being given money.

*Consumers who believe they have been defrauded should immediately report the details and contact the company they used to make the payment. Ohioans can report scams to the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or by calling 800-282-0515.*

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## Stay social without being scammed

A social-media platform is any internet-based platform that allows users to interact, create, share or exchange information with others. Common social-media platforms include TikTok, YouTube,

Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, BeReal and even certain gaming communities, such as Roblox and Minecraft.

Consumers use social-media platforms to connect with friends and family, get their news, follow celebrities, and buy and sell online.

Unfortunately, scammers also insert themselves into all aspects of social-media interaction. Here are some social-media scams to guard against:

- **Facebook messenger scams:** Scammers often use Facebook Messenger to send users requests for money or fake offers for loans or lotteries. If you do not know the person messaging you, ignore the message. If you recognize the person making the request, do not respond to the person via Facebook Messenger. Instead, contact that person using a method you know to be his/her direct contact information, such as a phone number or an email address, to confirm whether the request is legitimate.
- **Fundraiser scams:** After a major tragedy such as a mass shooting or natural disaster, it's common to see ads and posts from charities offering to aid victims. Some of these offers, however, might be scams. Bad actors falsely represent a charity or even use sound-alike names for their organizations. Before you donate to a charity, you should conduct an independent web search outside of the post. Be cautious about donating to newly created charities over those with a track record of dealing with disasters or community needs.
- **Romance scams:** Think twice before accepting friend requests from people you don't know. Accepting a friend request from a stranger can lead to a potential romance scam. The interactions might start innocently, perhaps with an offer of friendship or the trading of personal stories. If your new "friend" starts asking you for money or other gifts, though, it is likely a scam. Some scammers invest significant time in developing a romance to gain your trust and secure financial payments under false pretenses.
- **Job scams:** The adage "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is" applies to job scams. Scammers know that increasing numbers of people prefer to work from home. Some attempt to persuade you to apply for a job and turn over identifiable personal information by offering a job with a vague description and a too-good-to-be-true salary. To learn more about job scams, [click here](#).
- **Online marketplace scams:** With millions of people using online social-media platforms to buy and sell goods, plenty of scammers work to take advantage of first-time or infrequent online shoppers. One telltale sign of a scam: The seller asks you to pay or communicate with him/her outside of the platform. Also, look for potential scams when a sale seems too extreme (for example, when the price of a popular product is drastically marked down) or when a very hard-to-find item is suddenly available through an unfamiliar site or a store based on social media.

The Federal Trade Commission suggests the following ways to steer clear of scams on social media:

- Limit who can see your posts and information on social media. All platforms collect information about you from your social-media activities; visit [your privacy settings](#) to set restrictions.
- If you get a message from a friend about an opportunity or an urgent need for money, call the friend. The friend's account may have been hacked. Note that scammers often ask for payment by cryptocurrency, gift card or wire transfer.
- If someone appears on your social-media platform and rushes into a friendship or romance, slow down. Learn more about [romance scams](#). And never send money to someone you haven't met in person.

- Before you buy, [check out the company](#). Search online for the company name and terms such as “scam” and “complaint.”

*Consumers who believe they have been defrauded should immediately report the details and contact the company they used to make the payment. Ohioans can report scams to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or by calling 800-282-0515.*



**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

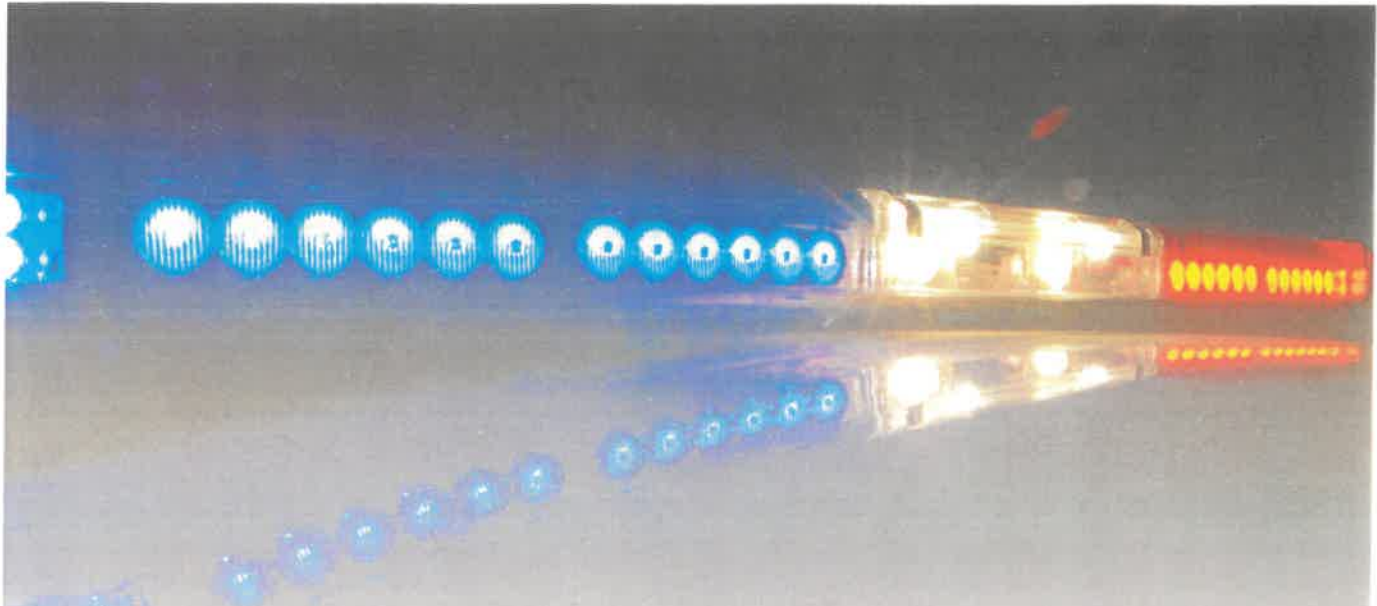
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**OHIO ATTORNEY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE**

30 E. Broad St. 17th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
800-282-0515

**[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OICI](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OICI)**





## Special Prosecutions

The Special Prosecutions Section of the Attorney General's Office frequently fields requests from county prosecutors to prosecute OICI cases. By policy, these cases are presented to grand juries.

Here's a by-the-numbers look at the section's work on OICI cases since 2019:

**42:** Cases presented to a grand jury.

**37:** Cases in which the grand jury returned a "no-bill" decision, declining to charge the involved officer(s).

**4:** Cases in which the grand jury returned a felony indictment(s).

**1:** Cases in which the grand jury returned a misdemeanor indictment(s).

Here's a closer look at the four cases involving felony indictments:

- Scioto County Deputy Sheriff Billy Thompson was acquitted of murder and reckless homicide.
- Columbus Police Officer Adam Coy was convicted of murder, reckless homicide and felonious assault. (Note: This case was indicted by the AGO Special Prosecutions Section but returned to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office for prosecution.)
- Highland County Sheriff Deputy Jonathan Malone was acquitted of reckless homicide.
- Lakemore Police Officer Dylan Ukleja faces one count of felonious assault. His case, which was investigated by the Summit County Sheriff's Office, is pending.

The one OICI case that yielded misdemeanor charges involved Butler Township Police Officer Todd Stanley, who was found guilty of misdemeanor assault.

## Transparency

Attorney General Yost introduced post-investigation transparency in all officer-involved critical incidents investigated and/or reviewed by his office. In incidents where there is a fatality, the case is proactively posted to the Ohio Attorney General's website. For incidents where there was not a fatality, records are readily available by submitting a public records request to BCI. Case files are redacted to meet the requirements of Ohio's Sunshine laws.

This means that the public is given access to records after BCI has completed its investigation — which forms the basis for any legal action stemming from the incident — and either a prosecutor or grand jury has decided not to indict the case, or there is an indictment and the case has been prosecuted in court. State law precludes any earlier release in order to ensure a fair investigation and judicial process.

To date, 92 case files have been published online. Those records can be found at: [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SpecialPages/Investigative-Documents](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SpecialPages/Investigative-Documents).

## Additional resources

More detailed information on BCI's OICI response can be found on the Ohio Attorney General's website: [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OICI](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OICI)

**To assist law enforcement agencies looking to request an OICI investigation from BCI, the bureau has produced a booklet explaining its protocols and expectations. Scan the QR code to access the booklet.**



**This e-book provides an in-depth look at best practices for investigating an OICI. Scan the QR code to download the book.**

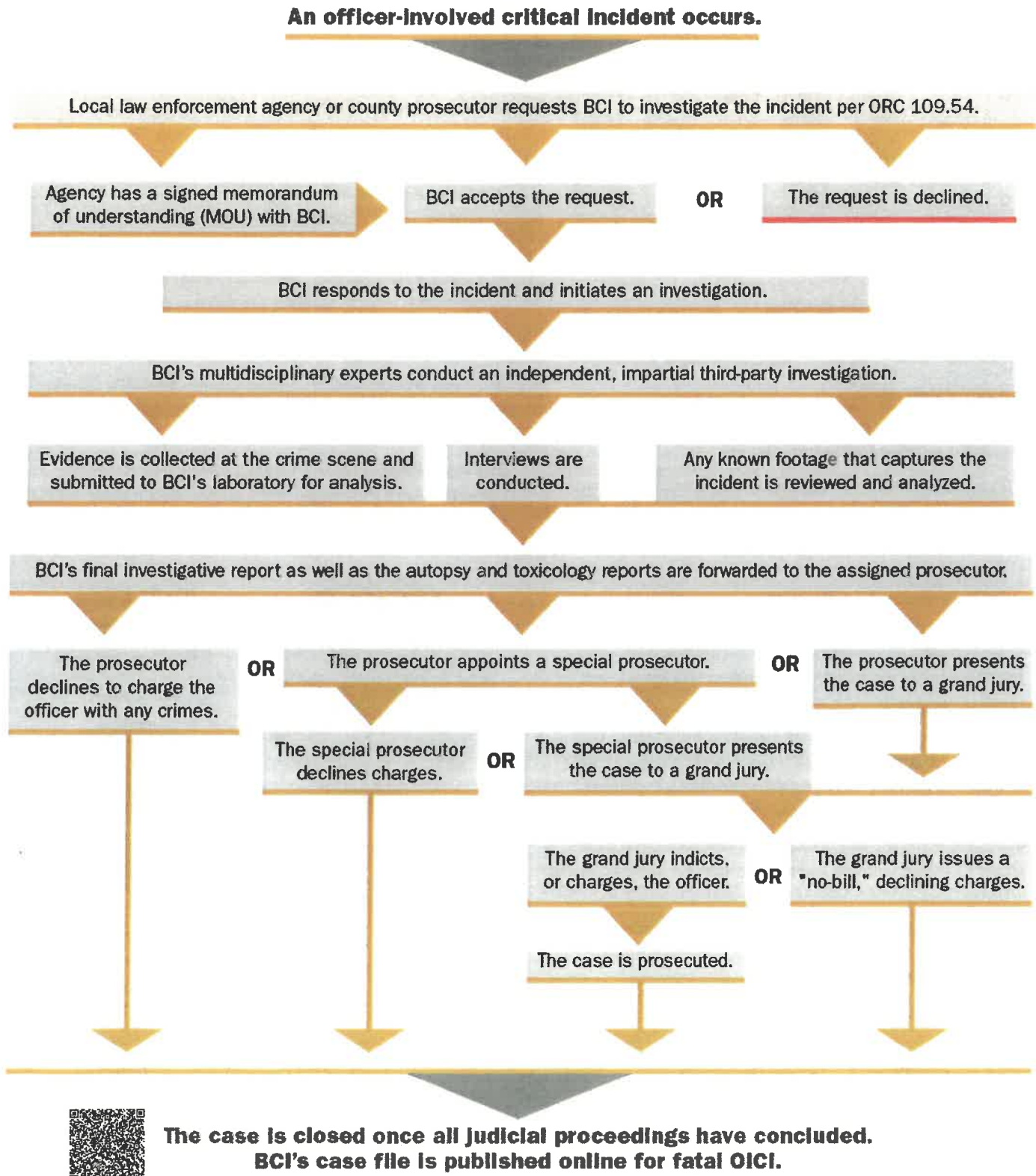


## Process

Every OICI consists of unique circumstances, but when BCI is asked to conduct the investigation and accepts the case, the community, justice system and requesting law enforcement agency know what to expect.

BCI conducts an independent and unbiased investigation of the facts and circumstances of a use-of-force incident; it does not offer an opinion regarding the legality of an officer's actions.

Here is a high-level look at the process:

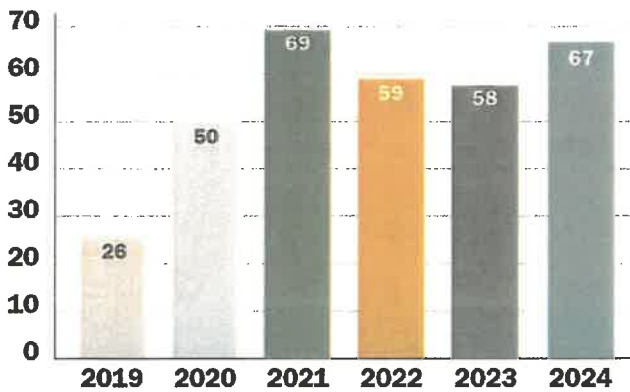




## Investigations

Since 2019, BCI has investigated 329 officer-involved critical incidents. Twenty-eight of those cases remain active.

**OICI by year** (as of 1/2/2025)



## Case dispositions

Once BCI completes its investigation, the bureau provides a final report to the prosecutor who has jurisdiction over the incident location — in most cases, the county prosecutor.

That prosecutor may:

- Make a determination on his/her own and decline to present the case to a grand jury.
- Present the case to a grand jury, which would vote to charge the involved officer(s) or issue a “no-bill” decision, declining charges.
- Appoint a special prosecutor to review the case and/or present the case to a grand jury.

It is the role of the assigned prosecutor — or a grand jury, if the assigned prosecutor decides to convene one — to determine whether the officer’s conduct was lawful and whether prosecution is warranted.

Since 2019 under Yost, the Attorney General’s Office has tracked the disposition of OICI cases. The following cases investigated by BCI, excluding those involving expunged criminal records, resulted in criminal charges against an officer:

**BCI Case #2019-3600 | Carroll County Sheriff’s Office:** Deputy Jacob Baker was indicted on one count of voluntary manslaughter. In July 2021, a jury found Baker not guilty.

**BCI Case #2020-1503 | Scioto County Sheriff’s Office:** In April 2022, a jury acquitted Deputy Billy Thompson of murder and reckless homicide.

**BCI Case #2020-3388 | Columbus Division of Police:** On Nov. 4, 2024, Police Officer Adam Coy was found guilty of murder, reckless homicide and felonious assault.

**BCI Case #2021-1757 | Hocking College Police Department:** Officer Cecil Morrison was charged with negligent homicide. He pleaded no contest to the misdemeanor in April 2022 and surrendered his peace officer certification.

**BCI Case #2022-1782 | Columbus Division of Police:** Officer Ricky Anderson was indicted on charges of murder and reckless homicide. The case is pending.

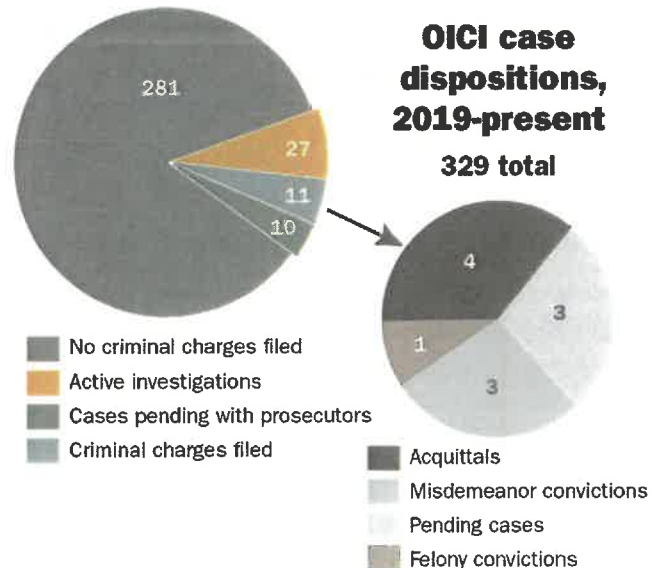
**BCI Case #2023-0197 | Butler Township Police Department:** In September 2023, Sgt. Todd Stanley was found guilty of misdemeanor assault.

**BCI Case #2022-1527 | Highland County Sheriff’s Office:** Deputy Jonathan Malone was indicted on one count of reckless homicide. In August 2023, a jury acquitted Malone.

**BCI Case #2023-2232 | Blendon Township Police Department:** Officer Connor Grubb was indicted on charges of murder, involuntary manslaughter and felonious assault. The case is pending.

**BCI Case #2023-2407 | Lucas County Sheriff’s Office:** On Aug. 7, 2024, Deputy David Terry pleaded no contest to negligent assault, a misdemeanor.

**BCI Case #2024-1218 | Canton Police Department:** Officers Beau Schoenegge and Camden Burch were indicted on charges of reckless homicide. The cases are pending.





# BOLSTERING PUBLIC TRUST

BCI prioritizes objectivity, transparency  
in investigations of police use-of-force situations

**W**hen an Ohio law enforcement officer is involved in a use-of-force incident, justice requires the resulting investigation to be independent, professional and prompt — and that it be done with as much transparency as possible.

If law enforcement is to have the support of the communities it serves, these investigatory elements are a given.

The Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation is a national leader in officer-involved critical incident (OICI) investigations. Assistant Superintendent Mark Kollar and his BCI colleagues wrote the book on best practices for conducting such investigations, a resource that was suggested and supported by Attorney General Dave Yost.

Since AG Yost took office in January 2019, BCI has conducted 329 OICI investigations. What follows is an overview of that process and those cases (through Dec. 31, 2024).



## Definition

BCI defines an officer-involved critical incident as one involving:

- The discharge of a firearm or other use of force by a law enforcement officer that results in human injury and/or death. BCI typically does not investigate incidents in which no injury occurs; such incidents are typically investigated by local departments.
- Serious physical harm or death of a law enforcement officer at the hands of another.
- Under certain circumstances when force is used, the death of a person while in custody.

## Jurisdiction

Under Ohio law (ORC 109.54), BCI can investigate an OICI only upon request from a local, state or federal law enforcement agency or prosecutor’s office with jurisdiction over the incident location. The Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Constitution do not permit BCI to investigate an incident based on a citizen’s request.

Each request for BCI to investigate an incident is reviewed and accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Some law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions throughout the state have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BCI regarding OICI investigations. An MOU doesn’t guarantee that BCI will investigate every officer-involved critical incident, as the incident must still meet BCI’s definition of an OICI before the bureau accepts the case.

BCI maintains a communications center 24/7 to dispatch personnel as needed.

**OFFICER-INVOLVED CRITICAL INCIDENTS**



# **BOLSTERING PUBLIC TRUST**

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**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

