

# Village of Bluffton Council Meeting Agenda

October 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM



## **Opening Ceremonies**

Call to Order, Mayor Johnson presiding

Pledge of Allegiance



## **Minutes**

Approval of the minutes for the Village Council meeting held on Monday, October 10, 2022

## **Bills**

### **Committee Reports**

Bluffton Beyond Tomorrow – 10/19

### **Boards & Commissions**

## **LEGISLATION**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 27-2022**

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

## **Village Administration Report:**

**Mayor:**

## **Safety Services Reports:**

**-EMS-**

**-Fire Dept.-**

**-Police Dept.-**

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

Village Council – Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Tree Commission – Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Village Council – Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **Public Comment**

## **Adjournment – Motion and Second**

Village of Bluffton – Regular meeting October 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Cupples motioned, seconded by Sehlhorst, to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on September 26, 2022. Roll Call: Yes (4) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Steiner motioned, seconded by Talavinia, to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call: Yes (4) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Talavinia motioned, seconded by Cupples, to approve the special event request for the Blaze of Lights Parade on November 26, 2022. Main Street, between The Center and College Ave. will be closed from 4:45 p.m. until approximately 8:00 p.m. Roll Call: Yes (4) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Steiner motioned, seconded by Sehlhorst, to approve a change in time from 7:00 am to 9:00am to the previously approved Discovery Day special event on October 22, 2022. Roll Call: Yes (4) Messrs: Cupples, Sehlhorst, 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.

Bluffton Beyond Tomorrow Open House on Wednesday, October 19 from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Village Council on Monday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

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MAYOR

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FISCAL OFFICER

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON  
VOUCHER REPORT 10/24/2022 - Preliminary

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION
ACCENT BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS	815.75	Administrative	PHONES
ALL SERVICE AERATION, INC	532.50	Park	PORTABLE TOILETS
ALLOWAY TESTING	1,508.10	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	1,508.10	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	880.10	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	340.00	Multiple	TESTING
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	5,072.04	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CO.	191.10	Administrative	ORDINANCE CODIFICATION
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CO.	2,083.03	Administrative	ORDINANCE CODIFICATION
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	173.25	Multiple	LIFE INSURANCE
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	975.35	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	18,769.06	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	208.07	Multiple	STONE
BOBCAT COMPANY	145.00	Land & Buildings	LANDSCAPE RAKE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	39.99	Multiple	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	43.40	Multiple	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	159.98	Multiple	CABLE
CINTAS	76.16	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	76.16	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	26.68	Administrative	OFFICE SUPPLIES
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	321.41	Multiple	WARNING BEACON
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	9.48	Police	ICE
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	54.30	Police	POSTAGE
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	36.06	Police	TRAVEL FOR D. FRANCIS CHARITY OUTING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	35.00	Administrative	PESTICIDE LICENSE RENEWAL
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	143.69	Street	PARTS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	15.00	Administrative	PESTICIDE LICENSURE - BLACKBURN
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	639.50	Street	WIRE HARNESS
CLEMANS, NELSON & ASSOCIATES, INC	175.00	Administrative	RETAINER
DOMINION EAST GAS	298.23	Multiple	NATURAL GAS
EIKENBARY LANDSCAPE CO.	640.00	Sewer	DIRT WORK E. ELM
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	1,018.61	Water	VALVE BOX TOPS & RISERS
FAMILY HARDWARE DO IT BEST	60.98	Park	TREE LOPPERS
FAMILY HARDWARE DO IT BEST	204.99	Street	CORDLESS GREASE GUN
FAMILY HARDWARE DO IT BEST	106.12	Multiple	SUPPLIES
First Klass Services, Inc.	785.00	Cemetery	WEED SPRAY
FOUR U PACKAGING & SUPPLIES	996.75	Street	ELEPHANT ARMOR PATCH
GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY	19.36	Police	SABA KIT
GARY LUGIBIHL EXCAVATING	168.00	Sewer	STRAW BALES
GREAT LAKES BILLING ASSOCIATES, INC.	1,536.89	Rescue	EMS BILLING SERVICE
GUTH LABORATORIES INC	39.97	Police	DRUG KITS
HACKENBERG, FEIGNER, BISHOP & WERTH, LLC	1,000.00	Administrative	SOLICITOR FEES
HANCOCK COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS	295.00	Administrative	LEGAL FEES
HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC CO-OP	165.45	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC CO-OP	48.00	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
JOHN HOCHSTETLER	910.00	Police	DECAL FOR NEW CRUSIER
Kathy Burkholder	77.00	Police	UNIFORMS
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	148.58	Fire	BATTERY FOR #102
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	565.36	Multiple	PARTS
MR. APPLIANCE WEST CENTRAL OHIO	119.00	Rescue	WASHER PARTS

OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	275.00	Administrative	ANNUAL OML CONFERENCE
PATRIOT CONCRETE	1,775.00	Street	CHERRY ST. CURB
PERRY CORPORATION	2,122.96	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
SHELL FLEET PLUS	2,060.86	Multiple	FUEL
SMARTBILL	905.01	Multiple	BILLING SERVICES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	812.01	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	74.86	Multiple	SUPPLIES
THE DOUGH HOOK MEAT MARKET	52.00	Administrative	BEYOND TOMORROW SUPPLIES
TIME WARNER CABLE	169.98	Multiple	CABLE
VERIZON WIRELESS	87.76	Multiple	CELL PHONES
VILLAGE OF OTTAWA	45,578.28	Water	WATER
WAGNER OVERHEAD DOOR	283.00	Land & Buildings	SHOP DOOR REPAIR
ZOLL DATA SYSTEMS	156.56	Rescue	EMS CHARTS
	<u>98,659.83</u>		

BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 10/21/22	44,181.48
MEDICARE	601.79
OPERS	2,373.81
OP&F	2,449.31

SEPTEMBER FIRE & EMS	7,237.54
MEDICARE	104.93
OPERS	503.08
FICA	115.89

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 27-2022  
VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.**

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has enacted natural gas deregulation legislation which authorizes the legislative authorities of cities and villages to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located within the respective jurisdictions and to enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, governmental aggregations provide an opportunity for residential and small business consumers to participate collectively in the potential benefits of natural gas deregulation through lower natural gas rates which would not otherwise be available to those natural gas customers individually, and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Bluffton seek to establish a governmental aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code for the residents, businesses and other natural gas consumers in the Village.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all those elected or appointed thereto concurring:

**SECTION 1.** The Council of the Village of Bluffton has concluded that it is in the best interest of the Village, its residents and businesses located within the corporate limits of the Village to establish this aggregation program in the Village.

**SECTION 2.** The aggregation program must be approved by the electors of the Village pursuant to Section 3 of this Resolution. Upon approval by the electorate the Village is hereby authorized to automatically aggregate, in accord with Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code, the retail natural gas loads (customers) located within the Village and enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of natural gas. The Village may exercise such authority jointly with any other municipal corporation, township, or county or other political subdivision of the State of Ohio.

**SECTION 3.** The Board of Elections of Allen County is hereby directed to submit the following question to the electors of the Village of Bluffton at the primary election on May 2, 2023.

**Shall the Council of the Village of Bluffton have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas customers located in the Village, and for that purpose, enter into services agreements to facilitate for those customers the sale and purchase of natural gas, conversion to the aggregation program will occur automatically unless the customers choose to opt out of the program.**

The Fiscal Officer of Village of Bluffton is instructed to immediately file a certified copy of this resolution and the proposed form of the ballot question with the Allen County Board of

Elections not less than ninety days prior to the general election. The aggregation program shall not take effect unless approved by a majority of the electors voting upon this resolution and the aggregation program provided for herein at the election held pursuant to this Section 2 of this resolution and Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 4.** Upon approval of a majority of the electors voting at the general election provided for in Section 3 of this Resolution, the Council of the Village of Bluffton individually or jointly with any other political subdivision, may develop a plan of operation for the aggregation program. Before adopting this plan, the Council of the Village of Bluffton shall hold at least two public hearings on the plan.

Notice of the hearings shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Village prior to the first hearing. The notice will summarize the plan and state the date, time and place of each hearing. No plan adopted by this Village Council shall aggregate the natural gas load of any natural gas load center within the Village unless it, in advance, clearly discloses to the person owning, occupying, controlling or using the load center that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program and will remain so enrolled unless the person affirmatively elects, by a stated procedure, not to be enrolled. The disclosure shall state prominently the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of enrollment. The stated procedure shall allow any person enrolled in the Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt-out of the program at least once every two years without paying a switching fee. Any person that opts out of the Aggregation Program pursuant to the state procedure shall default to the standard service offer provided under division (a) of Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code until the person choose an alternative supplier.

**SECTION 5.** That 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 the 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.

**WHEREFORE,** This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law and approval by the signatures below.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

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



### 3rd Quarter 2022

#### **Parks**

- Lions way landscaping
- Tee box dirt work disc golf
- ADA soccer field frame, pour, dirt work & seed
- Close and winterize pool
- Pressure wash shelter houses
- Rebuild backflow at VP
- Weed trimming and maintenance
- National Night Out set up help
- Remove old boat ramp @ Buckeye and dirt work
- Cut back Lions way path
- Stone south pathway
- Paint shelter houses
- Disc golf signpost
- Stripe VP soccer lot

#### **Cemetery**

- Weed eat
- Dirt work
- Tree trimming

#### **Streets**

- Thermoplast N. Bentley crosswalks & College Ave.
- Pressure wash curbs for paint
- Paint curbs
- Crack sealing
- Alley maintenance
- Potholes
- Paint cross walks
- Elevate trees from signs
- Curb repair
- County line conduit installation

- Main St. curb repair
- ADA dirt work

#### **Land, Buildings and Equipment**

- Repair gates at water towers
- Truck & fleet services and maintenance
- OUPS and line location
- Backflow testing

#### **Water**

- Rebuild CL2 at water plant
- Water leak (x1)
- Water service hook ups (x3)
- Water tap
- GST repairs
- Main and Beaver no flow
- Water loss audit
- Repair broken hydrant

#### **Storm sewer**

- GIS data input
- Catch basin repair (x4)
- Storm sewer GIS data

#### **Sanitary**

- Repair sewer valve at WWTP
- SCI's
- Repair 103 lift station / transducer
- Install stone lot at WWTP
- Hauled sludge
- Sludge pressing
- UV install and set up
- Manhole inspections
- Sewer cleaning
- Dye testing



Date: October 1, 2022

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

### POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

September 2022

Police Calls for Service - 357

Chief' Calls for Service - 150

Total - 507

Traffic Stops - 51

Citations - 3

### CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Deceased Person	-	1
Driving under Suspension	-	3
Domestic Violence	-	1
Juvenile Misc.	-	1
OVI	-	2
Sexual Assault	-	2
Theft	-	1
Telephone Harassment	-	1
Warrant	-	1
Weapons Violation	-	1
Total	-	14





## Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 10/03/2022 09:26  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Year: 2022

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	5	11.4	5	11.4	5	11.4	6	13.6	4	9.1	6	13.6	3	6.8	3	6.8	6	13.6	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	44
Accident w/injuries	2	22.2	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	3	33.3	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Administrative	89	28.2	106	33.5	69	21.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	6.3	32	10.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	316
Aiding Other	23	14.6	24	15.3	13	8.3	11	7.0	18	11.5	20	12.7	19	12.1	18	11.5	11	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	157
Alarm	9	10.5	6	7.0	8	9.3	8	9.3	12	14.0	16	18.6	11	12.8	6	7.0	9	10.5	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	86
Animal Complaint	2	10.5	2	10.5	1	5.3	3	15.8	0	0.0	5	26.3	2	10.5	2	10.5	2	10.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	19
Assist Police	4	4.1	6	6.2	6	6.2	13	13.4	15	15.5	21	21.6	8	8.2	13	13.4	10	10.3	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	97
B&E	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	57.1	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Civil Complaint	0	0.0	1	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	18.8	5	31.3	0	0.0	5	31.3	2	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	16
Court	1	25.0	1	25.0	2	50.0	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	4
Criminal Damage	2	25.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8
Deceased	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Domestic	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	16.7	2	16.7	3	25.0	4	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
Drug Abuse	1	20.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Escort	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	3	33.3	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Fight Complaint	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	50.0	1	16.7	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6
Follow Up	7	11.3	12	19.4	21	33.9	2	3.2	7	11.3	5	8.1	5	8.1	2	3.2	1	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	62
Forgery	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
Hazmat	0	0.0	2	25.0	4	50.0	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	8
Hit Skip	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	27.3	2	18.2	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
House/Building	287	19.1	260	17.3	240	16.0	97	6.5	92	6.1	140	9.3	163	10.9	87	5.8	128	8.5	8	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1502
Intoxicated Driver	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Intoxicated Person	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Investigate Vehicle	19	8.6	35	15.9	26	11.8	10	4.5	21	9.5	30	13.6	23	10.5	26	11.8	28	12.7	2	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	220
K9 Request	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Lock Out	7	10.3	6	8.8	6	8.8	6	8.8	11	16.2	8	11.8	7	10.3	7	10.3	10	14.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	68



## Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 10/03/2022 09:26  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Year: 2022

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
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Menacing	2	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Mentally Ill Person	1	4.3	4	17.4	3	13.0	3	13.0	1	4.3	3	13.0	3	13.0	1	4.3	4	17.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23
Miscellaneous	50	12.2	43	10.5	54	13.1	32	7.8	55	13.4	46	11.2	31	7.5	42	10.2	57	13.9	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	411
Motorist Assist	5	10.2	5	10.2	5	10.2	6	12.2	4	8.2	5	10.2	5	10.2	7	14.3	7	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	49
Paper Service	2	7.1	1	3.6	2	7.1	3	10.7	1	3.6	1	3.6	3	10.7	11	39.3	4	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	28
Pedestrian Stop	1	7.1	3	21.4	1	7.1	1	7.1	1	7.1	2	14.3	2	14.3	0	0.0	3	21.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14
Prisoner Escort	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Prowler	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Receiving/Recover	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	2	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Shots Fired	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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Stolen Vehicle	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
Suspicious Person	4	12.9	3	9.7	1	3.2	2	6.5	2	6.5	7	22.6	4	12.9	5	16.1	3	9.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	31
Telephone	2	40.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Theft	5	18.5	2	7.4	2	7.4	6	22.2	1	3.7	2	7.4	3	11.1	4	14.8	2	7.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	27
Traffic Stop	61	12.9	50	10.5	63	13.3	56	11.8	42	8.9	56	11.8	46	9.7	42	8.9	51	10.8	7	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	474
Trespass	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
Unruly Juvenile	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Unsecured Door	1	3.8	3	11.5	3	11.5	2	7.7	5	19.2	4	15.4	1	3.8	2	7.7	4	15.4	1	3.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	26
Unwanted Guest	1	16.7	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	6
Violating PTO	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Warrant Service	3	50.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6
Total:	603	15.8	589	15.5	545	14.3	276	7.3	311	8.2	420	11.0	383	10.1	298	7.8	357	9.4	24	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	3806



# Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 10/03/2022 09:27  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Statute: All

From Date: 09/01/2022  
To Date: 09/30/2022  
Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department  
ORI Number: OH0020100

Traffic	JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC Totals											
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.12A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.21A SPEED/ACDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Traffic Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3



# Ohio Attorney General's **Consumer Advocate Newsletter**

Keeping Consumers Safe and Informed



**October 2022**



## **How to handle scam text messages**

Throughout the United States, the Federal Trade Commission says, \$131 million was reported lost in 2021 to frauds originating via text messages – a practice known as “smishing.” In 6% of the 377,840 total cases, complainants said they lost money, with a median loss of \$1,000.

The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates mobile-phone providers, has fielded an increasing number of smishing complaints in recent years – 5,700 in 2019, 14,000 in 2020 and

15,300 last year. The 8,500 complaints it had received through June 30 suggests that the 2022 total could set another annual record.

As regulations aimed at identifying the source of robocalls have tightened, scammers have increasingly turned to texting to wreak their havoc.

Smishing occurs when scammers send a text message that purports to be from a legitimate business or organization. The message might instruct you to click on a link to confirm or input your account information. The text might even falsely claim that you have purchased a product or service costing hundreds of dollars, and it might include a sense of urgency, suggesting that your account will be suspended or that you'll be charged for an item if you don't act immediately. By entering your username and password using the sham link on an impostor webpage, you open the door for a scammer to steal your personal information and gain access to your account.

Smishing scams rely on various prompts to trick their victims. For example, texts might say that an unknown package is ready to be tracked, that your bank is closing your account or denying access to your debit card, that you've won a prize or that you need to confirm the purchase of a product.

Here are some ways to avoid being victimized by scam text messages:

- Check your related accounts first before clicking on a link. If you receive an unusual text or email claiming to be from a trusted business or organization, do not click on the link in the message. Check your accounts through websites or phone numbers that you have verified to make sure your accounts are intact and that you have not purchased any unwanted items. Something to look for: Often a fake link contains a slight misspelling or differs slightly in other ways from the legitimate website.
- Never call back an unknown number. Use the information on the company's official website and not a number listed in an unexpected text.
- Don't pay a stranger with a gift card. If you are asked to pay with a gift card, it's a scam.
- Don't give remote access to someone who contacts you unexpectedly. The contact might claim to be from a government office, computer repair company or popular online store. Remote access to your computer or other electronic devices gives scammers easy access to your personal and financial information, such as your bank account. They might claim to be refunding your money but instead try to steal it.

If you receive an unwanted text message claiming to be from a business, there are four ways to follow up:

- Report it to the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org).
- Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
- Forward the message to 7726 (SPAM).
- Report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov).

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or 800-282-0515.

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## **Seven simple steps to be more secure in cyberspace**

In today's world, it's more important than ever to protect yourself in cyberspace. Celebrate Cybersecurity Awareness Month by learning seven simple and practical steps to increase your security online when using smartphones, tablets, notebook computers and other internet-connected devices.

- 1. Activate multifactor authentication (MFA) whenever possible.** MFA – available on many of your online accounts, apps and programs – requires you to verify your identity in addition to reciting your password, usually by sending a code to your mobile device. The National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) says that, according to Microsoft, “MFA is 99.9 percent effective in preventing breaches.” The company says MFA is a must for individuals looking to secure their devices and accounts.
- 2. Enable automatic updates.** Ohioans should ensure that their online devices have the latest updates to operating systems, internet browsers and anti-virus programs. Activating automatic updates whenever offered can save you from having to remember to regularly check for updates to these critical programs on your devices. For example, updates on mobile phones may address bugs and security flaws that the operating system has identified.
- 3. Use a password manager and regularly change your passwords.** The NCA says that “having unique, long and complex passwords is one of the best ways to immediately boost your cybersecurity.” But its own report, conducted with CybSafe, found that only 43% of the public always or very often uses sufficiently strong passwords. Although many people find it difficult to remember their passwords, a reputable and secure password manager can help you perform these tasks. With a password manager, you typically have to remember only your master password.
- 4. Use secured Wi-Fi.** Never use free, public Wi-Fi to perform any tasks that require a password or other personal identifying information. This includes online banking, product purchases and other financial transactions. When you do need to enter personal identifying information on a website, be sure the website is secure. How can you tell? Look at the address bar in your internet browser; secure sites typically begin with **https://** (The “s” stands for *secure*). Depending on the browser, the address bar may turn green or show a padlock to indicate that you're doing business on a secure website.
- 5. Use firewalls and anti-virus software on all devices.** Your wireless router essentially should act as a basic firewall, which helps keep potential hackers out of your home Wi-Fi network. Ensure that all devices connected to your home Wi-Fi have anti-virus software installed and that it is up to date. The most up-to-date security software, web browsers and operating systems are the best defense against online threats such as viruses and malware, according to the NCA.

**6. Be alert to phishing attempts.** According to the NCA, scammers phishing for personal information make up 80 percent of all cybersecurity incidents. Phishing occurs when someone impersonates a legitimate person, business or organization to try to trick victims into revealing private data, typically by luring them to click on a malicious link that leads to a phony website.

**7. Back up your data.** No one can be certain that home Wi-Fi security is 100% effective, so users need to back up their most important information by either storing it in the “cloud” or copying it onto external hardware, such as USB storage sticks or portable hard drives. Information stored with cloud storage services – think Google Drive, Dropbox and Microsoft OneDrive – is maintained on servers accessed over the internet.

For more information about the National Cybersecurity Alliance, visit its website at [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org). For cybersecurity tips from the Ohio Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Section, click [here](#).

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## **Parents and kids: Tips for safer social media and gaming**

Ohioans of all ages enjoy belonging to online communities. In recognition of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we offer tips to help parents and their kids stay safe while on social media and online gaming platforms.

For starters, be sure to review the preceding article on the “Seven simple steps to be more secure in cyberspace.” Advice on creating passwords, using multifactor authentication and keeping antivirus software updated is applicable to social media and gaming environments.

In addition, consider these specific tips about online gaming:

- Research any apps before downloading them to make sure they are legitimate and safe. Read reviews and go only to trusted app stores. Note that even in trusted app stores, some apps may not be safe.
- Use a credit card, not a debit card, if you need to enter any payment data for online gaming. Credit cards have additional protections afforded by law.
- Watch out for potentially dangerous links or downloads, especially if they are from a stranger or are unexpectedly provided to you. According to the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA), “Cyber criminals will often try to entice gamers into clicking links or downloading malicious files by offering cheats, hacks or other ways to gain an advantage over competitors.” One smart tip is to hover your mouse pointer over a link before taking any action. Doing this will reveal the actual URL to which the link will take you.
- Share as little personal information as possible on your public gaming account profile.
- Stay away from online gaming on free, public Wi-Fi to keep strangers from accessing your personal information and digital wallets. If you need to game online while traveling, the NCA suggests considering using a virtual private network (VPN) or hotspot through your cellphone signal to help provide a more secure connection.

- Be aware that parents can configure security and privacy settings for online gaming to limit how much information kids share. Consider parental controls to help institute rules about what your child can do and what they should be restricted from doing while online. This could include whether the child is able to communicate with other gamers, how much time they spend gaming and what – if anything – they are permitted to buy through the gaming environment.

Consider these tips regarding social media platforms:

- Stay current with social media apps your children may be using. Parents should know what their kids are doing online. Be sure to discuss with kids the importance of not interacting with strangers they meet through social media, and make sure they know not to click on any links or download any unknown files. Let your kids know it is OK to talk to you about unsafe interactions with others.
- Recognize that social media posts can live a long life and be distributed beyond a person's intended network of friends. Think before you overshare.
- Make sure your children's privacy settings are as strict as possible, establish guidelines governing their online activities (e.g., length of time online), and consider other parental controls that might be necessary.
- Understand how your personal data is used by social media platforms. According to the Better Business Bureau, "Many sites are designed to collect and sell unauthorized user details and behaviors to advertisers looking to engage in targeted marketing."

For more information about the National Cybersecurity Alliance, visit its website at [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org). For additional online privacy tips from the Better Business Bureau, click [here](#). For cybersecurity tips from the Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section, click [here](#).

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## **AG Yost, 32 other attorneys general reach \$438 million settlement with JUUL**

Attorney General Dave Yost and 32 other attorneys general announced a proposed \$438.5 million settlement with JUUL Labs stemming from a two-year multistate investigation into the e-cigarette manufacturer's misguided marketing and sales practices.

"No nicotine marketing to kids! It was wrong when it was Joe Camel, and it's wrong when it's JUUL's 'Miint' and 'Fruut' flavors and their influencer-led targeting," Yost said. "This settlement puts an end to JUUL's trawling for new addicts among our children."

JUUL was, until recently, the dominant player in the vaping market – a position the company attained by willfully appealing to youths in its marketing and advertising, even though its e-cigarettes are both illegal for youths to buy and unhealthy for them to use.

The investigation found that JUUL:



- Relentlessly targeted underage users with launch parties; advertisements using young, trendy-looking models and influencers; social media posts; and free samples. Almost all of JUUL's advertising was conducted on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. A study of the company's Twitter account found that 45% of its followers were 13 to 17 years old; only 20% were 21 or older.
- Manipulated the chemical composition of its product to make the vapor less harsh on the throats of young and inexperienced users.
- Sold e-cigarettes in youth-friendly flavors, including Miint, Fruut, Bruule, Tobaac, Cool Cucumber, Coco Mint and Mango.
- Falsely implied on its original packaging that the product contained a lower concentration of nicotine than it does; in fact, JUUL contains more nicotine than most other e-cigarettes.
- Suggested in its "Make the Switch" campaign that JUUL was a smoking-cessation device, even though it lacked authorization from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to make such a claim.

JUUL has ended its social media marketing and now sells pods only in two flavors: tobacco and menthol.

The settlement will force the company to comply with strict injunctive requirements that severely limit JUUL's marketing and sales practices. Specifically, JUUL has agreed to refrain from:

- Marketing to youths.
- Depicting anyone under age 35 in any marketing.
- Using cartoons in its marketing.
- Paying for product placement.
- Selling brand-name merchandise.
- Selling flavors not approved by the FDA.
- Allowing access to websites without age verification on a landing page.
- Making representations about nicotine not approved by the FDA.
- Making misleading representations about nicotine content.
- Participating in sponsorships or naming-rights deals.
- Advertising in outlets unless 85% of the audience is adult.
- Advertising on billboards, public transportation and in social media (other than testimonials on social media by individuals over the age of 35, with no health claims).
- Using paid influencers.
- Using direct-to-consumer ads unless age-verified.
- Offering free samples.

The investigation was led by Connecticut, Texas and Oregon. Joining Ohio in signing the agreement were Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

As of September 30, 2022, the states were still finalizing and executing the settlement. The proposed \$438.5 million would be paid out over six to 10 years, with the amounts paid increasing in proportion

to the amount of time the company takes to make the payments. If JUUL extends the payment period to 10 years, the final settlement could total up to \$476.6 million.

Both the financial and injunctive terms exceed any previous agreement that JUUL has reached with other non-participating states to date.

Unrelated to this settlement, the FDA on June 23, 2022, ordered JUUL to stop selling its products in the United States. Following an appeal by JUUL, however, the FDA has since decided to let JUUL's products stay on the market temporarily while the agency conducts an additional review.

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or 800-282-0515.

## ***Capital Improvement 2022 New Police Cruiser***



On behalf of the police department, I would like to thank Mayor Johnson and Village Council along with the support of the community to provide us with a safe patrol vehicle to work in.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ry ~ B".



## OHIO COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

October 20, 2022

Chief Ryan Burkholder  
Bluffton Police Department  
154 North Main Street,  
Bluffton, OH - 45817

Congratulations on achieving Provisional Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status on Group 3 (Bias Free Policing, Investigation of Employee Misconduct) standards. Enclosed you will find your provisional certificate to serve as a reminder of your agency's commitment to law enforcement and the community it serves.

We would like to obtain your feedback of your experience with the Agency Self Certification process. At your convenience, please complete the survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SelfCertificationSurvey>

Within 60 days, you can expect an onsite review from an assessor which will cover the standards noted above plus future standards your agency has complied with.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ed Burkhammer at 614.466.5996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Dehner", is written over a light green rectangular background.

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director  
Office of Criminal Justice Services





OHIO COLLABORATIVE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

# Provisional Certification

## *Bluffton Police Department*

Bias Free Policing, Investigation of Employee Misconduct

*has been deemed provisionally compliant with the above standards as established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board*

October 20, 2022

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director



## OHIO COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

October 20, 2022

Chief Ryan Burkholder  
Bluffton Police Department  
154 North Main Street,  
Bluffton, OH - 45817

Congratulations on achieving Provisional Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status on Group 4 (Vehicular Pursuit) standards. Enclosed you will find your provisional certificate to serve as a reminder of your agency's commitment to law enforcement and the community it serves.

We would like to obtain your feedback of your experience with the Agency Self Certification process. At your convenience, please complete the survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SelfCertificationSurvey>

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Sincerely,

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Nicole Dehner, Executive Director  
Office of Criminal Justice Services





OHIO COLLABORATIVE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

# Provisional Certification

*Bluffton Police Department*

Vehicular Pursuit

*has been deemed provisionally compliant with the above standards as established by the Ohio  
Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board*

October 20, 2022

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director



## OHIO COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

October 20, 2022

Chief Ryan Burkholder  
Bluffton Police Department  
154 North Main Street,  
Bluffton, OH - 45817

Congratulations on achieving Provisional Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification status on GROUP 5 (LE Response to Mass Protests/Demonstrations, Agency Wellness Standard) standards. Enclosed you will find your provisional certificate to serve as a reminder of your agency's commitment to law enforcement and the community it serves.

We would like to obtain your feedback of your experience with the Agency Self Certification process. At your convenience, please complete the survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SelfCertificationSurvey>

Within 60 days, you can expect an onsite review from an assessor which will cover the standards noted above plus future standards your agency has complied with.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ed Burkhammer at 614.466.5996.

Sincerely,

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director  
Office of Criminal Justice Services





OHIO COLLABORATIVE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

# Provisional Certification

## *Bluffton Police Department*

LE Response to Mass Protests/Demonstrations, Agency Wellness Standard

*has been deemed provisionally compliant with the above standards as established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board*

October 20, 2022

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director