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**DATE:** Monday, March 25, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 25, 2024, at 7:16 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Shirese Hursey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bourema Ouedraogo, Carla Boyd, Carol Mitten, Demond Dade, Seok Hyun Cho, Tristan Thomas, Tarek Azim, Will Kolschowsky

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Felix Wong, AmeriCorps Volunteer at the Illinois Justice Corps; Lania Turner, Environmental Science student at UIUC; Jack Casey, Environmental Engineering student at UIUC; Toby George, Informational Sciences student at UIUC

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:16p.m.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

##### a. 02-05-24 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

#### 3. Additions to the Agenda

*Mayor Marlin* corrected item L, titled “Adjournment”, to “Discussion”.

#### 4. Presentations and Public Input

##### a. Mayoral Proclamation: AmeriCorps Week

Mayor Marlin proclaimed March 10th through March 16th, 2024 as AmeriCorps week, celebrating the commitment of AmeriCorps volunteers, members, and alumni. Presented the proclamation to Felix Wong, AmeriCorps Volunteer at the Illinois Justice Corps.

**b. Urbana Fire Department Promotion**

Demond Dade, Fire Chief presented the promotion of Lieutenant Tristan Thomas and spoke on his 19 years of experience with the Urbana Fire Department. Shared his experiences of being an educator on the Public Education team, an advanced medic, his 4 years of service on the interview panel for firefighter candidates, his service as the Service Officer for fleet maintenance, his service as the Treasurer for the 2% Board, and the distinction of being Engineer. Tristan Thomas was accompanied by his daughter Ellie, his son Tai, and was pinned by his wife Sarah. Sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

**c. Presentation: Possibilities for a Single-Use Bag Tax in Urbana - UIUC Environmental Leadership Program, CMs Wilken & Evans**

Introduction provided by CM Wilken. Presented by Lania Turner, Environmental Science student at UIUC; Jack Casey, Environmental Engineering student at UIUC; and Toby George, Information Science student at UIUC who were all from the Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment as part of their Environmental Leadership Program. Spoke on lessons learned from bag taxes, hoping to inform City Council's decisions moving forward. Lania Turner provided background on environmental impacts of single-use plastic bags and how a bag tax could be used to move away from plastics while providing a "Green Fund" for the City of Urbana. Jack Casey provided statistics on the effectiveness seen in decreasing plastic bag use, through a bag tax, by 90% in Ireland in 2002; by 87.5% in Edwardsville, Illinois in 2021; and by 27.7% in Chicago, Illinois. Provided information gained from a case study on the City of Champaign's Walmart, stating that 4,320,000 single-use plastic bags are used per year and that the manager stated that he was open to a bag tax. Shared the bag tax proposal of a 10-cent bag tax on all single-use plastic bags sold in the City of Urbana that would only be assessed in stores greater than 5,000 square feet and assessed to the customer during checkout. The bag tax is incentivized to business owners by proposing 3-cents to stay with the store if they do not sell reusable bags, and 5-cents to stay with the store if they do sell reusable bags. To avoid punishing customers using food assistance programs, those customers would be exempt from the bag tax. Hoped, through implementation of a bag tax, to reduce the single-use plastic bag waste and provide a new revenue stream for the City of Urbana. Questions and discussion followed.

**d. Public Input**

*Peggy Patton* spoke on BerryDunn's review in November, presenting 2 questions for BerryDunn. Asked if Community Service Responder staffing will be delineated for various crises and calls, citing the different skill sets required for various calls. Called for additional mental health services working with the Urbana Police Department, stating that time spent on the CPRB shows the need for these services. Stated Civilian Police Review Board is not being fully utilized. Asked for how often a paid full-time director for administrating a volunteer CPRB is suggested elsewhere in other reports. Thanked BerryDunn for their work and expressed excitement for the upcoming BerryDunn report. *Brian Dunn* thanked City Council for listening to presentation on a skate space. Expressed excitement regarding knowing communication for skate park is ongoing behind the scene and that the discussion is continuing. Hoped for internal plans for a skate park to be more of a DIY skate space, but is still excited for it to see what will come of these discussions. Thanked CM Evans for the inspiration and space to talk about skateboarding. *Adam Nichols* thanked City Council for listening to BerryDunn and holding off on staffing until the report was completed. Thought it was interesting how there are 47 patrol officers, but the minimum recommended amount of 44 patrol officers is already met, but an additional 14 sworn and un-sworn officers are recommended. Noted that Community Outreach Officers were not recommended despite

being previously discussed. Recounted sentiments at the community safety meeting, held at the Independent Media Center, of favoring the recommendation that non-sworn officers who can act more as first responders without reporting to police that are in an alternate branch. Thanked Chief Boone for being a supporter of alternate responder models and hoped that he would support the idea of having first responders that are external to the Urbana Police Department. Mentioned that the funding of a crisis responder program can be up to 85% federally funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and the Substance Abuse and Treatment Block Grant. Stated that the presence of Community Service Responders could alleviate the need for police officers to take overtime and the overworking of police officers. Proposed a freeze on police bonuses until racially biased traffic stops are addressed. **Camille Cobb** commented on BerryDunn report pointing out local geographic location of being between major cities being designated as a “mini metropolis” where people might travel to trade in arms and illegal materials. Questioned validity of the previous claim made by BerryDunn and asked how many arrests are made in regards to that claim. Expressed worry regarding technology used for policing that relies solely on UPD staff input rather than input from more stakeholders from the community. Hoped that during UPD’s consideration of the data from report, they would critically view how the data was collected and where the conclusions are drawn from. **Jane McClintock** recounted recommendations made during the meeting held at the Independent Media Center where an organization recommended community responders be outside of the Urbana Police Department’s jurisdiction and how it would be more beneficial to the community while also building community trust. Questioned how staffing recommendations could be made without the study being completed and having a whole view on the potential for alternate response models. Stated opportunity for alternate response model to be implemented in the City of Urbana is promising. Hoped for an external CSR to be created so appropriate calls could be shifted over for PD to focus on actual police work rather than assistance with general life issues. **Batha** shared confusion on lack of transparency surrounding reasoning for suggestions from BerryDunn to increase the use of technology within the Urbana Police Department solely based on regional partners also using technology. Expressed concern to hear discriminatory technology be recommended by BerryDunn, citing the example of automated license plate readers and studies on it that show that racial discrimination in car ownership becomes exacerbated due to its presence. Stated that bringing further technology into PD can open avenues for discrimination and the report did not adequately vet technology suggested within the report. Requested the City of Urbana to critically question the value and purpose of technology to be implemented to be used by the Urbana Police Department. Stated UIUC can be a great resource to the City of Urbana when considering technology to implement in a fair and ethical manner. **Timothy Chen** echoed previous recommendations for community service responder programs that would be outside of the Urbana Police Department’s jurisdiction. Spoke on BerryDunn suggesting the increase of officer-initiated activities, specifically traffic stops, invoked lived experience in New Orleans, Louisiana stating that the use of technology and increase of policing did not lead to a better community. **Bram Osterhaute** agreed with statements from the previous speaker. Expressed concerned with suggestion to increase officer-initiated traffic stops. Agreed traffic safety must be increased, but shared skepticism of traffic stops being an efficient way to improve traffic safety. Expressed that money for expanding the Urbana Police Department could be better spent on infrastructure improvements that have more lasting impacts. Stated City of Urbana could be redesigned to decrease the pressures leading someone to resort to crime as a method of improving a resident’s quality of life. Thanked City Council for holding space for public input on the BerryDunn report and requested City Council to earnestly consider the potentials of infrastructure investments. **Martell Miller** shared experience as a 60-year resident of Champaign-Urbana, stating that poverty and homelessness issues are not being properly addressed and that it cannot be addressed by funding more policing. Stated that before increasing spending on the Urbana Police Department, an increase for investments against poverty, unhoused people, schools, and

community centers must be made as those would more adequately address crime activities than an increase in funding for the Urbana Police Department. **Marina Minetti** shared concern regarding public safety. Stated that drops in prison populations are the best way to measure the current state of public safety, as rises in prison populations indicate a more unsafe public. Stated that violence escalation from police officers decreases safety for community and that de-escalation comes from people without guns that are trained to respond sensitively to dire situations. Stated police officers are inherently primed against their population by having a gun and using arrests to resolve conflicts and that imprisonment does not contribute to improving public safety. **Minnie Pearson** agreed with what has been said. Stated that police officers must be held accountable for their actions and be dismissed for actions done outside of the law. Stated officers must not be overworked and burnout must be prevented. Money toward PD could be better spent toward worse off communities and holding landlords accountable. Stated that the funding for the Urbana Police Department should be spent on preventative measures to ease burden on police officers so they are less overworked and burnt out. Agreed with previous speaker, Martell, on directing funding toward community resources and spaces. **Miriam Larson** shared questions floated during yesterday's Independent Media Center meeting regarding the report from BerryDunn. Questioned how stakeholders will be listened to during the continued review of findings. Stated youth specific input forums would be of great use to providing further insight for BerryDunn. Questioned how RACES and diverse communities are being brought into discussions of report. Asked how conflict resolution skills could be grown locally.

*Written Public Input was received from the following individuals and read by CM Wilken, CM Kolisetty: Sharon Irish (CM Wilken), David Cisneros (CM Kolisetty), Elizabeth & Nick Powers (CM Wilken), Ma'ayan Weinberg (CM Kolisetty). Written Public Input was received from the following individuals, but was not read: Olga Tumanova and Melissa Lyke.*

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wu** shared that LIHEAP, a state program to assist people with utility payments, expires on 05-2025 unless the sunset clause is removed. Recommended that City Council contacted State Representatives to share the importance of LIHEAP within the local community. Shared that there were leftover funds from the pandemic that the Regional Planning Commission had now been allocated toward the purchase of an 8-unit single-person property with the intent of addressing homelessness. **CM Wilken** thanked the presenters, AmeriCorps Volunteers, the public for their questions shared tonight, and congratulated the Fire Department for their promotion. Stated that despite the message regarding Sola Gratia, they are wholly operating within their legal rights and are trying to be considerate neighbors. **Mayor Marlin** reminded the public of employment opportunities available through the special census to be a Census Field Representative and that applications are available on the City of Urbana's website. Stated that they need 60 applicants and that the pay is between \$18.50 and \$18.80 an hour with supervisor positions available beginning in June that offer slightly higher pay. Stated that the work would be conducted between mid-August through early-December. Shared information regarding the Regional Planning Commission on their valuable services provided to the community alongside their planning work. Stated that the Regional Planning Commission provides over 30 to 32 different programs with a budget of \$61.8 million and a staff of 310 with 15 locations across 5 counties. Shared that the Regional Planning Commission will be providing lighting to several neighborhoods across Champaign-Urbana through the Safety Lighting Energy Efficiency Program. Congratulated the men's and women's basketball teams for their performance this past weekend and shared excitement for future games. Addressed the letter regarding Sola Gratia, stating that Sola Gratia continues to be in compliance with City Ordinance and they operating within their rights.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Grace Wilken, Ward 6*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-015:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map - (205 North High Cross Road / Plan Case No. 2483-M-23) - CD

Presented by CM Wilken.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

### 2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-02-013R:** A Resolution Adopting Mayor/Council Strategic Goals for 2024-2025 - Exec

Presented by CM Wilken with Management Analyst William Kolschowsky available for questions.

Motion to approve, with the revised language, by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

CM Wilken began discussion to include changes to the Mayor/Council Strategic Goals as recommended by the Sustainability Advisory Commission regarding Strategies 3.1 and 3.3.

CM Wilken proposed change to section 3.3 C to read "Create and implement a grant program for community environmental projects." Accepted by City Council.

CM Wilken proposed change to section 3.3 B to read "Support food waste composting at the Urbana LRC."

CM Quisenberry proposed to instead add the change as a new section under 3.3 rather than replacing 3.3 B with "Support food waste composting at the Urbana LRC." Accepted by City Council.

Straw poll by Mayor Marlin: Add the suggested new section to strategy 3.1 from the Sustainability Advisory Commission that reads, “Add a FTE arbor technician and vehicle for adequate tree maintenance to maintain current urban canopy status and decrease vacant tree sites.”

**AYE:** 6

**NAY:** 0

Straw poll passes

CM Wilken proposed section 3.3 B to move under strategy 3.1, as per the Sustainability Advisory Commission’s recommendations. Accepted by City Council.

CM Wilken proposed the addition of a section to strategy 3.3, as per the Sustainability Advisory Commission’s recommendations, that reads “Pursue the implementation of a single-use plastic bag fee as recommended by the Sustainability Advisory Commission’s Resolution No. 2023-02-01-1R.” Accepted by City Council.

Straw poll by Mayor Marlin: Change the wording to instead “Pursue the reduction of single-use plastic bags in the City of Urbana, however road you choose to get there.”

**AYE:** 4

**NAY:** 2

Straw poll passes

Straw poll by Mayor Marlin: To use the proposed language in the previous straw poll instead of using the language in the recommendation provided by the Sustainability Advisory Commission.

**AYE:** 3

**NAY:** 3

Straw poll fails

## 8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 9. Mayoral Appointments

### a. Boneyard Creek Commissioner (Term ending 06/30/2027) - *William Rose*

Introduced by Mayor Marlin. Shared background and previous experience of William Rose. Read interest statement provided by William Rose with the recommendation of approval.

### b. The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees (Term ending 06/30/2027) - *Darius White*

Introduced by Mayor Marlin, corrected term end date provided, stating that the correct term end date is 06/30/2026 as this is an interim position to fill a recently vacated position. Shared background and previous experience of Darius White. Read interest statement provided by Darius White with the recommendation of approval.

Motion to approve both appointments, with the corrected term ending on 06/30/2026 for Darius White, by CM Wu; seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

## 10. Reports of Officers

### a. BerryDunn Report

Presented by Michele Weinzetl, Senior Manager at BerryDunn. Introduced by Mayor Marlin and spoke on precedence for the review conducted by BerryDunn on behalf of the City of Urbana. Thanked CM Bishop and CM Kolisetty for serving on the committee that interviewed and selected BerryDunn as the reviewer. Thanked the public for their input and interest in the report. Michele Weinzetl began by noting that most questions raised during public input will be addressed and with stating two primary elements of the report: reviewing staffing demands of the Urbana Police Department (UPD) and the Urbana Fire Department (UFD), and looking at the potential for alternative response model adoption.

Explained that data for reviewing staffing requirements for UPD was sourced through the Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD), the Records Management System (RMS), as well as other sources such as uniform crime reporting and internally crafted surveys. Differentiated from CAD data, gathered from the Consolidated Dispatch Center for Champaign, IL County (METCAD) radio dispatching, and RMS data due to importance of discrepancies between data and the sources. Data is used by filtering into standardized forms to cross-examine between other reports generated by BerryDunn in the past. Obligated workload model, a nationally accepted standard of measuring workload from being summoned by the community, was used by BerryDunn in determining the results of the report. Explained traffic data as being from community summons on traffic conditions, but officer-initiated traffic stops were in a different data set. Expressed difficulty of extracting usable data from METCAD/CAD. Explained data on officer hours spent responding to community calls (19,762:10:02 hours) and hours spent on officer-initiated activities (2,780:40:43 hours). Elaborated on community-initiated calls for service, categorizing it into three categories: Crime (32.72% of calls; 33.08% total time spent), Service (64.61% of calls; 65.98% of total time spent), and Traffic (2.67% of calls; 0.94% of total time spent). Measured patrol unit availability through average leave data for active patrol officers, to accurately gauge the available time for a patrol officer used in the obligated workload model (1,719.29 available hours). Elaborated on calls for service by each hour of the day and calls for service by beat. Spoke on suggested officer amount per shift based on the total hours spent responding to summons within each shift, and how the recommended total officer number of 44 was calculated [Sum of Total Officers Required in Each Shift (17) x Shift Relief Factor (2.55) = Total Officers Required (43.35)]. Noted that to reach the calculated total officers required to meet call demand, an additional thirteen personnel is required. Explained need for more staffing due to use of geographic policing and need for backup officers as responding to a call currently takes away an active officer in a different beat, leaving it unattended. Clarified that of thirteen new personnel, seven would be sworn officers and six would be non-sworn Community Service Responders (CSR). Stated that current capacity is insufficient to meet current workload demands, but it can be solved by adding a mix of officers and CSRs. Touched on capacity measured within the investigations department of the UPD and how it was measured within the report. Noted that there are sufficient investigators to manage the current investigative workload, with the opportunity to take on a portion of the investigative workload of the patrol officers. Commented on reported number of officers on patrol, stating that the number includes supervisors and non-primary call for service responders. Clarified matter of field technology used by patrol officers, stating that concerns raised by community are regarding a different sector of technology used for crime fighting efforts which were not included in the main focus of the review by BerryDunn. Stated that unobligated time available for officers does not necessarily correlate to higher traffic stops, as that time is meant to be allocated to community-oriented and problem-oriented policing, but it has the potential to slightly increase them due to side effects of increased staffing. Spoke on the search for

alternative response models, specifically mentioning BerryDunn's experience in reviewing the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program.

Elaborated on scope of review taken for the UFD, stating differences in metrics used within the methodology of the review. Displayed total calls for service measured through CAD and pointed out the portion of medical calls for service, stating it statistically overwhelms the volume of work done by the UFD. Stated that the response to medical calls for service of having to send a full company causes unnecessary wear and tear of fire trucks and is an overresponse in many cases, displacing them from service readiness. Illustrated the consistent, significant difference between medical calls for service responded to all other calls for service received. Shared information on overlap incident responses responded to by the UFD, indicating a surge in overlap incidents since indiscriminate Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) calls for fire service were implemented by METCAD. Shared information gathered from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) that analyzed and rated the UFD's readiness to manage fire incidents in the Fire Prevention Services Area (FPSA); pointing to the sufficient credit received for the Engine Company analysis (6/6), slightly low credit received for Deployment Analysis (9.56/10), and low Company Personnel (how many people are on each fire truck) credit received (9.61/15). Pointed out that the City of Urbana lost most points in the credits received for the UFD in the ISO's FPSA analysis. Pointed to importance of engine companies and company personnel in understanding necessity of staff required to manage a full fire event. Called for greater amount of fire department staffing to meet requirements. Recommended implementation of a Rescue Utility Unit (RUU) to alleviate the need to send a full service to calls that did not require them. Stated that a RUU would require 6 staff members to fully staff with a total of 12 daily shift hours.

Additionally noted that what falls under a critical recommendation is something that needs to be immediately addressed, such as illegal activities. Shared high-level, key recommendations for UPD and UFD. Recommendation 2-7: adding seven sworn police officer positions and six non-sworn CSR positions; 2-12: developing policy stating that only staff trained in Internal Affairs (IA) investigations are to conduct IA investigations; 3-2: UFD leadership engage in developing strategic goals; 3-4: UFD collaborate with METCAD to examine AVL usage and implementation; 3-5: UFD develop a policy to determine when AVL use can be waived; 3-6: UFD implement a RUU for medical calls for service and other calls for service that do not require a full company deployment; 3-7: UFD assess medical and ambulance related responses to discern when a multiunit response is necessary. Outlined next steps for the BerryDunn study and the wide potential for further recommendations to emerge.

Mayor Marlin noted the remarkable density of data gathered for the study and thanked the efforts of Deputy Chief Rich Surles, Chief Larry Boone, Fire Chief Demond Dade, Management Analyst Tarek Azim and City Administrator Carol Mitten. Michele Weinzetl thanked the community for their input, feedback, and questions. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to extend meeting by 30 minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.



## 11. ~~Adjournment~~ Discussion

### a. Discussion on Allowing Skateboarding on a City Parking Lot - CMs Wilken and Evans

Presented by **CM Wilken**, stating importance of discussion even in Elizabeth Hannan's absence so that questions could be compiled and gauge City Council's level of support. **Mayor Marlin** mentioned previous conversation with Timothy Bartlett, Executive Director of the Urbana Park District stating everyone's long term support for a skating facility, but Urbana Park District's current focus is currently on the completion of the Health and Wellness Center. Stated the first steps and short-term solutions for a DIY Skate Space could be for the Park District to hold pop-ups at the proposed lot for skating. Clarified division of jurisdiction between various bodies of local government, stating that the City of Urbana's ability extends to providing the pop-up space through City of Urbana parking lots and providing funding for costs of holding those events. Stated that although pop-ups are not an ideal beginning to a skate space, they provide the first steps to the path of securing a DIY Skate Space. **CM Kolisetty** added that the process of establishing a skate space initially does not seem complicated, but the internal process is significantly more complicated than what may be expected due to insurance reasons holding the City liable for injuries sustained, in activities typically not covered by the City, in a space owned by the City. Stated the current goal is for internal obstacles to be properly navigated. **Mayor Marlin** noted that there is great willingness to collaborate for a skate space from all sides of the community and the local governmental bodies. **CM Wilken** stated confusion regarding level of City participation in maintaining a space for skating due to the request seeming as though people are asking for a space where they may be allowed to skate. Requested further information on why skating is prohibited in City spaces and how insurance coverage works for other City events such as Market at the Square. **CM Quisenberry** appreciated further information provided by the Urbana Park District regarding having a skate park that addresses the requests of the community. Emphasized the community's request for a skating space in the downtown of the City of Urbana, citing the underutilization of the City of Champaign's skatepark due to its non-ideal location. Hoped for the requests of the community for a DIY skatepark in downtown to be fulfilled. **CM Evans** asked to define the length of time of a pop-up held by the Urbana Park District. Echoed CM Quisenberry's emphasis for a skate park to exist in downtown Urbana specifically to enhance the livelihood of the downtown area while meeting the requests of the skateboarding community. Asked how Spalding Park handles the issue of insurance, pointing to the higher degree of danger of the obstacles already present there without any staffing being present. **Mayor Marlin** clarified that Spalding Park is managed by the Champaign Park District and it would be better explained by them. **CM Evans** stated skating goes beyond being a recreational activity supported by the Urbana Park District, but it also about cultural development, being a widely accessible activity for the community, and developing the local economy.

## 12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

**Minutes approved:** 4/29/24

# Bag Tax Lessons for Urbana



Prepared by the Institute for  
Sustainability, Energy and Environment's  
Environmental Leadership Program

# Why a bag tax?

- Single-use plastic bags are one of the leading sources of litter, which makes them a high contributor to the growing microplastics crisis
- Although most plastic bags are easily recyclable, a wide majority aren't (only 1%)
- A bag tax is the first step to shifting away from our “plastic culture”
- Tax revenue could be used for green fund for Urbana





# Are bag taxes effective?

- After Ireland implemented a bag tax in 2002 of 0.15 euros per bag, plastic bag consumption *decreased by 90%*
- Edwardsville, Illinois enacted a 1-cent bag tax in 2021 and in the following 4 months, plastic bag consumption *decreased by 87.5%*
- Chicago saw a decrease after a 2017 bag tax of 27.7% a few months after, and an increase of reusable bags by 15.5%



# Case Study: Our Local Walmart

- Local Walmart in Champaign uses approximately:
  - 4,320,000 bags per year
- The manager we spoke to said he was open to the tax, and that many of his customers come to and from Chicago where there is already a tax



# Our proposal:

- A 10-cent bag tax on all single-use plastic bags sold in Urbana
- The fee would only be assessed stores greater than 5,000 square feet
  - Assessed to the customer at checkout
- 3-cents back per bag to businesses that do not sell reusable bags in store
- 5-cents back per bag to businesses that do carry reusable bags in store
  - This will ensure businesses have something to gain as well, and provide an incentive to carry reusable bags in store
- Those using SNAP, EBT, and other food assistance programs at checkout would be exempt from the fee

# What we hope to accomplish:

- Reducing single-use plastic bag waste in Urbana
  - The structure of the tax will encourage businesses to carry reusable bags within their stores while reducing demand for single-use ones
- Providing the city with a *new, meaningful revenue stream*
- A ballpark estimate on revenue:
  - Low response to the tax:  $19,400,000(0.06)(0.75) = \$873,000.00$
  - High response to the tax:  $19,400,000(0.06)(0.25) = \$291,000.00$





# Thank you for listening

shifting away from  
our plastic culture



Prepared by the Institute for  
Sustainability, Energy and Environment's  
Environmental Leadership Program



Store	Address	Approx. Sq Footage*
Walmart Supercenter	100 S High Cross Rd, Urbana, IL 61802	200,000
Meijer	2500 S Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802	150,000
Blain's Farm and Fleet	2701 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana, IL 61802	120,000
Salt and Light	1819 Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802	61,000
Schnucks-Urbana Crossing	114 N Vine St, Urbana, IL 61802	60,000
Dollar Tree	1303 E Colorado Ave, Urbana, IL 61801	20,000
ALDI	3102 E University Ave, Urbana, IL 61802	15,000
World Harvest International and Gourmet	306 W Springfield Ave, Urbana, IL 61801	10,000
Family Dollar	1110 S Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61801	9,000
El Progreso	1302 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana, IL 61802	5,300
CVS	1818 S Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802	5,000
Ashar African Market	510 N Cunningham Ave, Urbana, IL 61802	2,400
Lincoln Square Mall Stores		
Common Ground Food Co-op	300 S Broadway Ave Suite 166, Urbana, IL 61801	na
The Idea Store	125 Lincoln Square, Urbana, IL 61801	na
Art Coop	125 Lincoln Square, Urbana, IL 61801	na
Record Swap	125 Lincoln Square, Urbana, IL 61801	na
Urbana Main Street Stores		
Birkenstock Concepts	104 W Main St, Urbana, IL 61801	7,000

Priceless Books	112 W Main St, Urbana, IL 61801	5,000
Bohemia	135 W Main St, Urbana, IL 61801	2,000
Beads and Botanicals	117 N Broadway Ave Unit #1 1, Urbana, IL 61801	1,600
Thrift Urbana	123 W Main St #103, Urbana, IL 61801	1,500
Enchantment Alley	123 W Main St #102, Urbana, IL 61801	1,500

Stores under (or close to under) the 5,000 sq ft threshold

\*sq footage measurements from Champaign County GIS Consortium 2023 aerial imagery

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**MEMORANDUM TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL****Subject:** Sustainability Advisory Commission Recommendations

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**Summary***Action Requested*

Consider the amendments to Mayor-Council Goals proposed below.

*Commission Recommendation*

At the March 5, 2024 Sustainability Advisory Commission (SAC) meeting, the Commission agreed to forward the following underlined recommendations to City Council for consideration in the Mayor-City Council Strategic Goals for 2024-2025 Strategic Area #3: Infrastructure.

## Strategy 3.1 Improve quality of infrastructure assets

- A. Complete sanitary sewer asset management plan and roadway asset management plan by the end of fiscal year 2025.
- B. Review and adjust dedicated revenue streams for infrastructure assets, beginning with the Local Motor Fuel Tax.
- C. **(ADD)** Promote Green stormwater management by revising the Stormwater Utility Credits and Incentive Manual.
- D. **(ADD)** Add a FTE arbor technician and vehicle for adequate tree maintenance to maintain current urban canopy status and decrease vacant tree sites.

## Strategy 3.3 Expand sustainable infrastructure within the community

- A. **(REPLACE)** ~~Evaluate the practical and financial feasibility of sustainability improvements in City facility capital projects.~~ Implement sustainability improvements in City facility capital projects, such as geothermal heating and solar photovoltaic installations.
- B. **(REPLACE)** ~~Promote Green stormwater management by revising the Stormwater Utility Credits and Incentive Manual.~~ Pursue the implementation of a single-use plastic bag fee as recommended by the Sustainability Advisory Commission's Resolution No. 2023-02-01-1R
- C. Create a grant program for community environmental projects.

Sincerely,  
Luke Westawker  
Chair, Sustainability Advisory Commission



# City of Urbana Police and Fire Staffing Study

# Agenda

- ▲ Introduction
- ▲ Scope
- ▲ Methodology
  - Police
  - Fire
- ▲ Key Recommendations
- ▲ Questions



# Primary Objectives

- ▲ Evaluation of the Urbana Police Department (UPD) and Urbana Fire Department (UFD) staffing models
- ▲ Themed perspectives and considerations based on input from the community
- ▲ Review of equitable public safety services and community safety models and estimated costs for these alternatives
  - Essential Calls For Service Review
- ▲ Implementation roadmap to drive the City toward the progressive change it seeks
  - Alternative Response Model



# Urbana Police Department



# UPD Patrol Staffing

- ▲ Methodology
  - Gather Data
    - CAD/RMS
    - Other Sources
  - ▲ Analyze the Data
  - ▲ Workload Model
    - 30 – 30 – 30 – 10





## Table 2.26 Adjusted UPD Unit Hours

Unit	2022 Hours on Call		
	Community	Officer	Total
Chief	None	0:57:14	0:57:14
Detective	382:53:44	533:09:40	916:03:24
K9	30:41:58	56:16:57	86:58:55
Lieutenant	26:45:34	10:06:26	36:52:00
Officer	814:21:15	1056:42:12	1871:03:27
Sergeant	239:52:00	367:03:30	606:55:30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1494:34:31</b>	<b>2024:15:59</b>	<b>3518:50:30</b>
<b>Adjusted Total - UPD</b>	<b>19762:10:02</b>	<b>2780:40:43</b>	<b>22542:50:45</b>



# Table 2.33 Community-Initiated CFS Volume by Category

Call Category	Count of Calls	% of Total Calls	Sum of Time Spent (Hours)	% of Total Time Spent
Crime	5,322	32.72%	6,316.90	33.08%
Service	10,508	64.61%	12,597.53	65.98%
Traffic*	434	2.67%	178.56	0.94%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>19,093.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

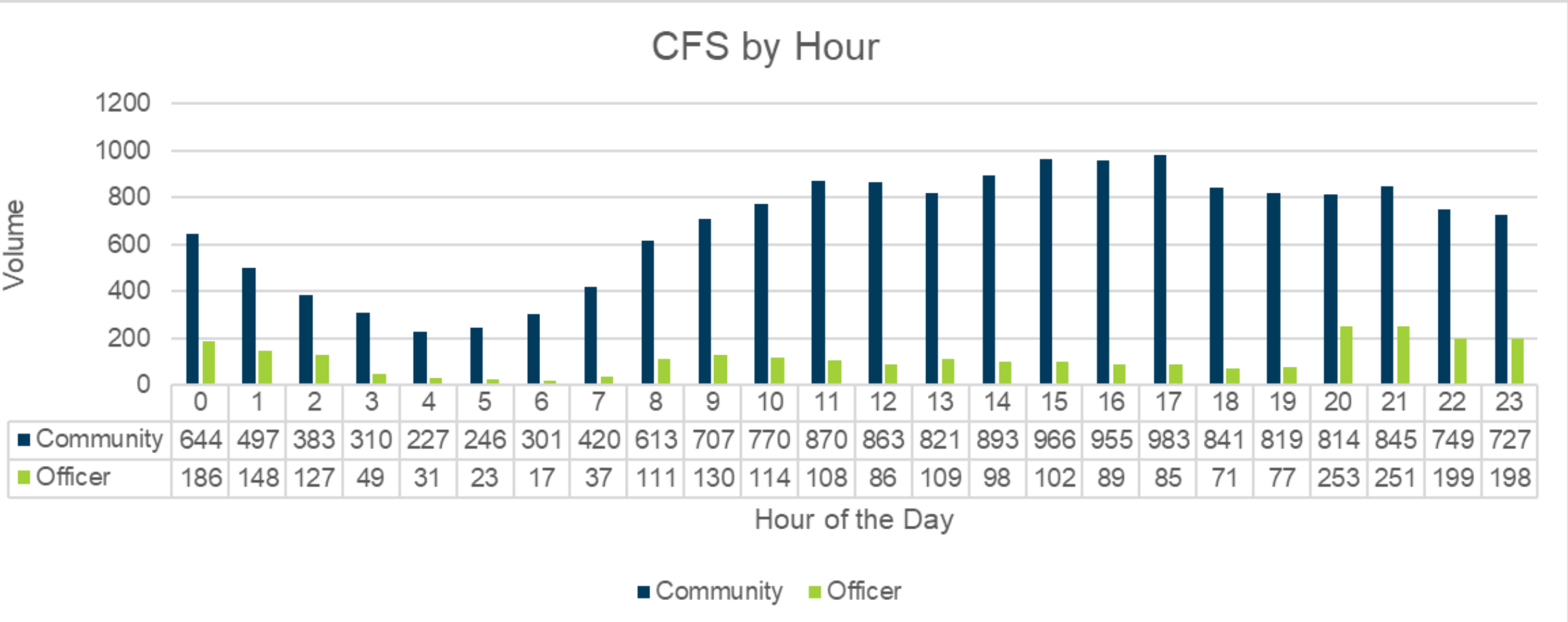


**Table 2.54  
Patrol Unit  
Availability**

<b>Annual Paid Hours</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>*Study Averages</b>
<b>Leave Category</b>		
Vacation	145.97	144
Illness/Sick	46.04	47
COMP Used	74.72	31
Holiday	0.22	97
Holiday Float	0.00	
Military Leave	12.09	12
Military Training	0.00	10
On the Job Injury Leave	0.77	
Family Care	2.09	
Personal Leave	27.57	
Bereavement	2.68	
Unpaid	1.56	
Training	47.00	
<i>Subtotal (minus)</i>	360.71	
<b>Average Annual Availability (Hours)</b>	<b>1719.29</b>	<b>1,697</b>

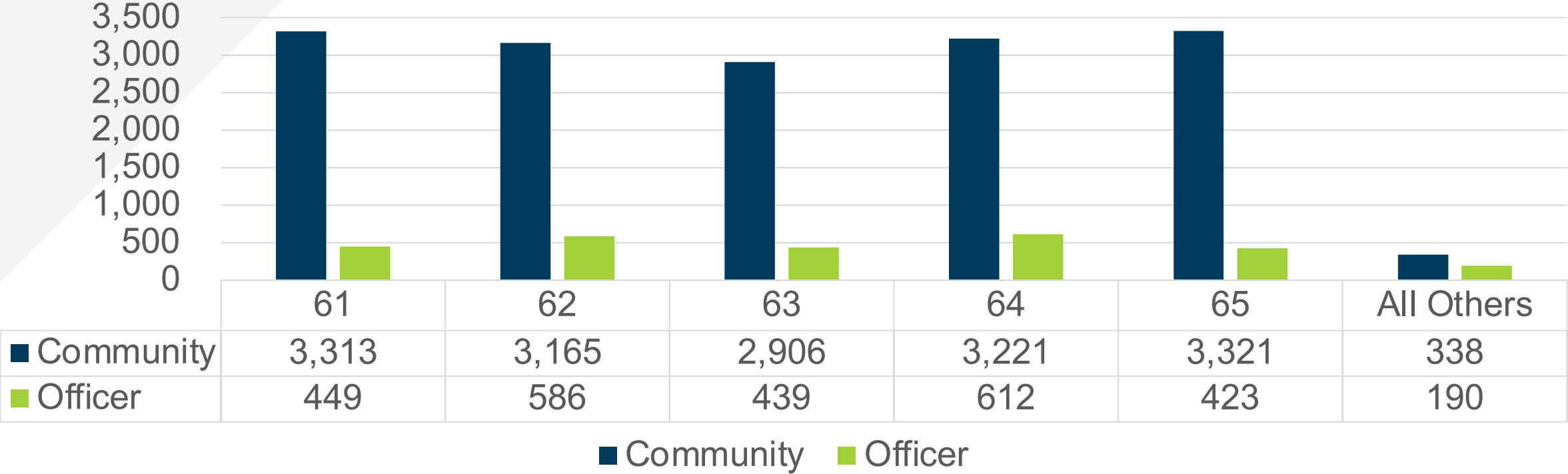


# Figure 2.7 CFS Volume by Hour of the Day



# Figure 2.8 CFS Volume by Beat

CFS Volume by Beat



# Table 2.60 Officers Required by Shift

<b>Current Daily Events</b>	<b>0700-1100</b>	<b>1100-2300</b>	<b>2300-0700</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Shift Relief Factor</b>	<b>Total Officers</b>
<b>Total Annual Hours</b>	2911.25	12052.34	4798.41			
Minutes/Day	478.56	1981.21	788.78			
Officers	2.22	9.17	3.65			
<b>Officers Required</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>43.35</b>
<b>Suggested</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>43.35</b>



# Table 2.74 Investigations Capacity

Investigative Capacity	*Cases Assigned	**Number of Detectives	Annual Cases per Detective	Monthly Average per Detective	Average Available Hours per Year	Average Hours Available per Month	Average Hours Available per Case
General Investigations	241	7	34	3	1443.35	120.28	41.92



# Table 2.87 Staffing Summary (UPD)

Section	Current		Recommended		Current		Recommended	
	Sworn Personnel		Sworn Personnel		Non-Sworn Personnel		Non-Sworn Personnel	
	Supervisor	Officer	Supervisor	Officer	Supervisor	Employee	Supervisor	Employee
Administration	2					1		
Patrol	12	34		7				6
Investigations	2	8				5		
Records	1				1	7		
Property/Evidence						1.5		
<b>*Subtotals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>49</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>66</b>		<b>15.5</b>		<b>21.5</b>	

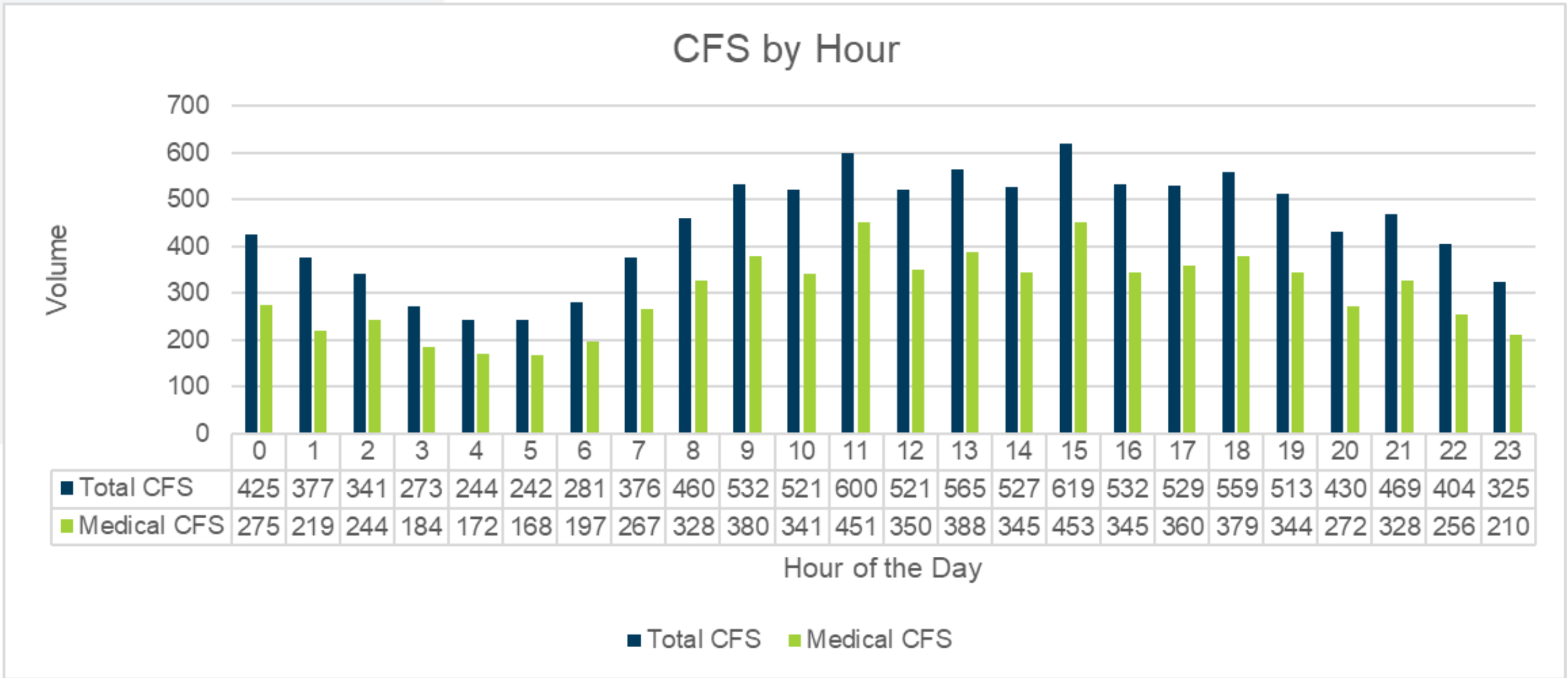




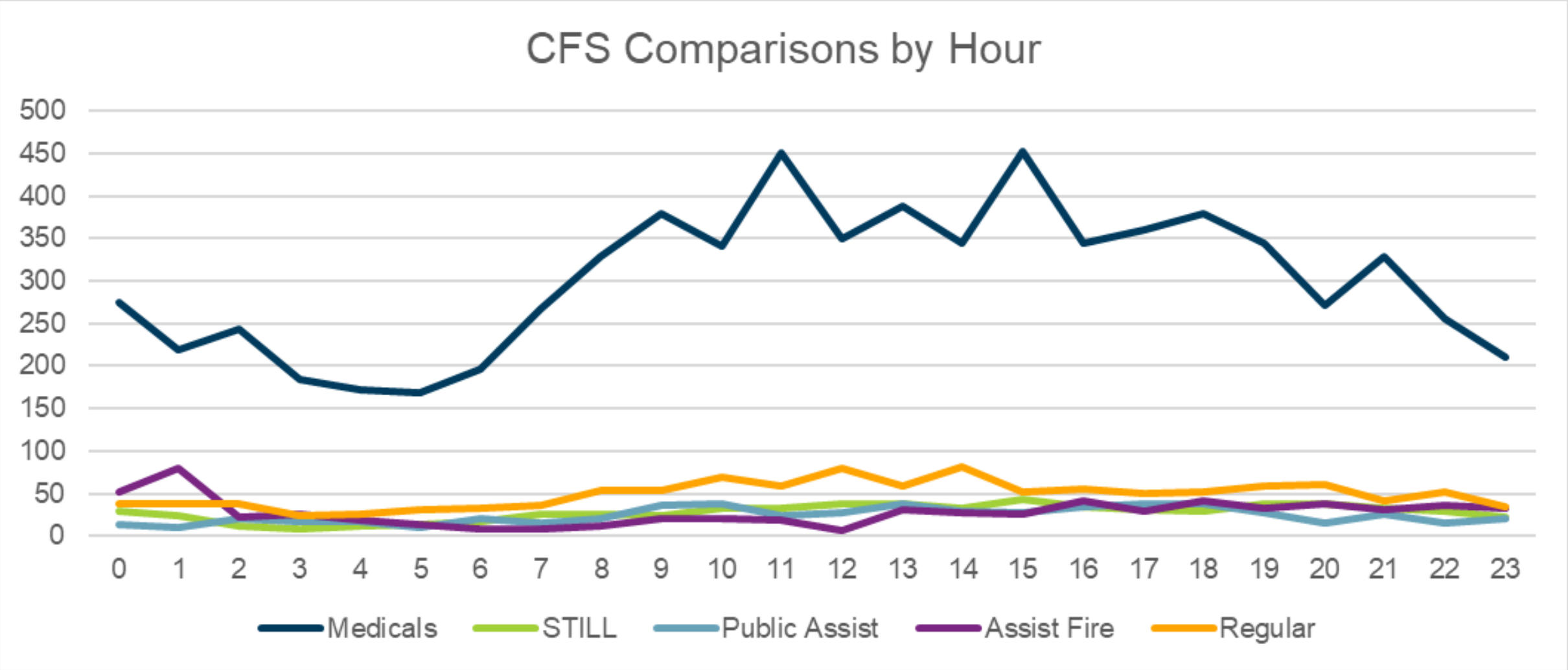
# Urbana Fire Department



# Figure 3.5 Total CFS and Medical CFS by Hour



# Figure 3.6 Other CFS Volume Comparisons by Hour



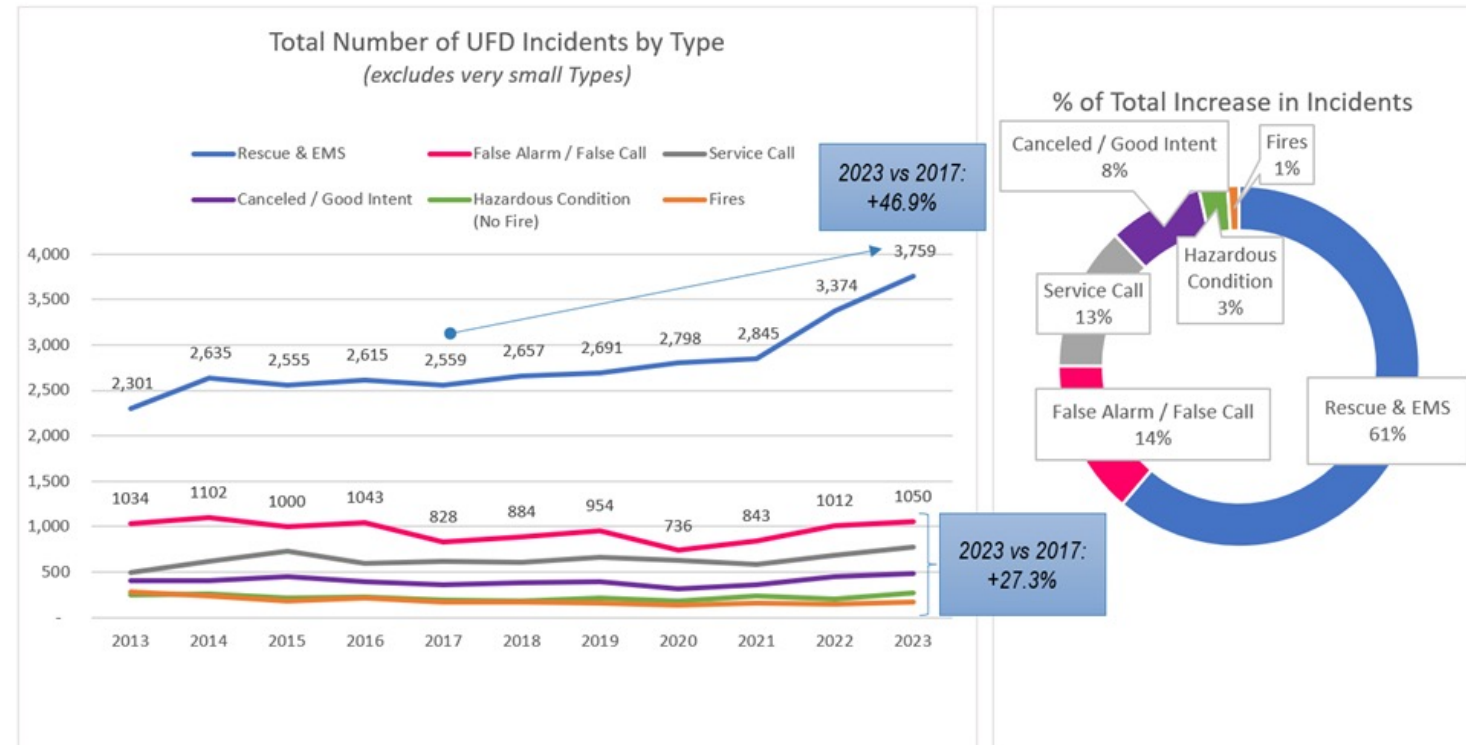
# Figure 3.10 Incidents by Type - Trends

## Urbana Fire Department (UFD) Incidents - by Type



- Rescue and EMS (blue line) represents the largest single Incident Type
  - It's grown from about 2 times as large as the next largest Type to 3 times as large
  - Rescue and EMS has also had the sharpest increase in Incidents in both absolute and percentage terms since FY2017

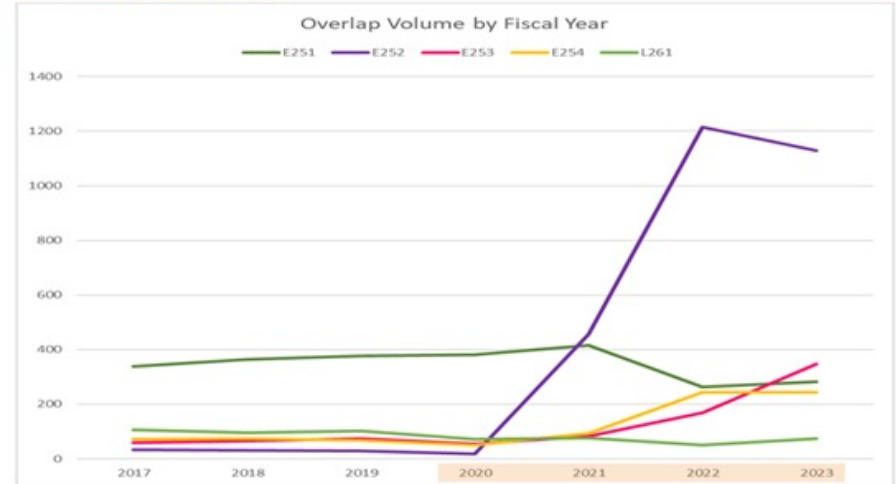
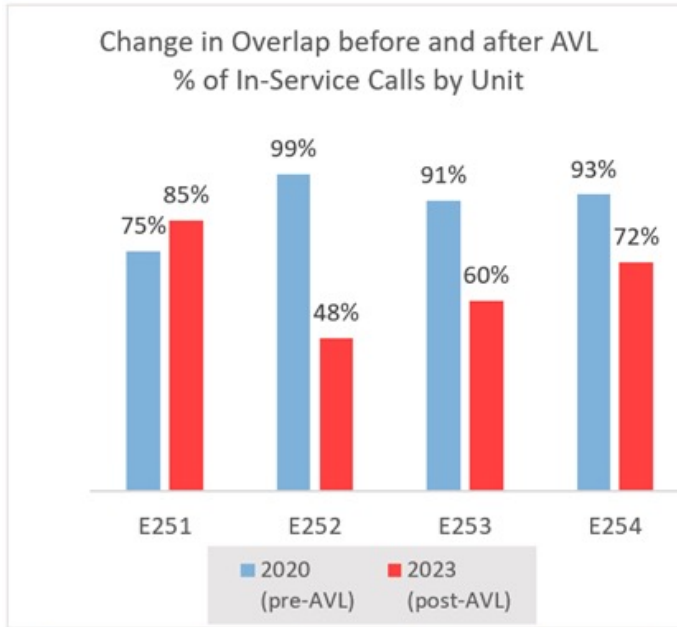
- Rescue and EMS accounts for 61% of the total net increase in Incidents



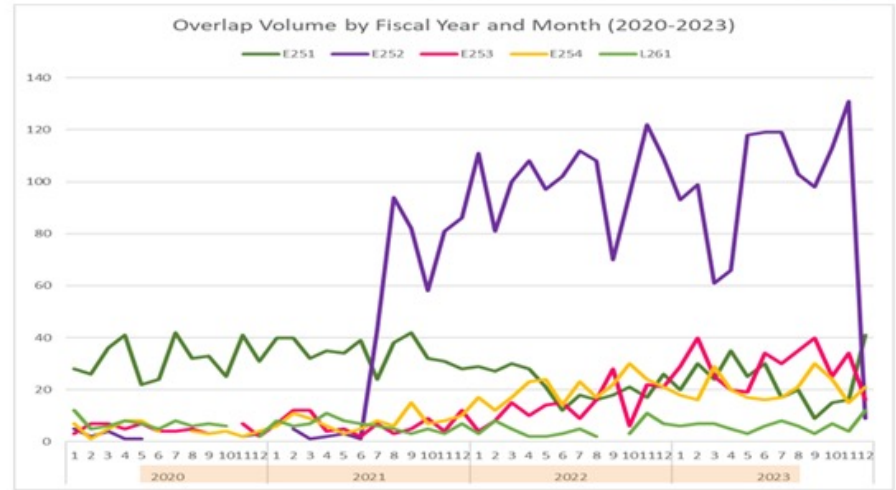
# Figure 3.9 Out of Area (Overlap Incident) Response

- There were consistent rates of in-Service Area calls before 2020
- After AVL, in-Service Area call rates dropped dramatically, especially for Unit 2

- In the trend data, the impact of AVL go-live (late Summer/early Fall 2020) had a dramatic impact on Overlap (calls answered outside a Unit's Service Area)



District	Out	In	Total	Percent
UF1	777	2,617	3,394	77.11%
UF2	652	3,983	4,635	85.93%
UF3	259	1,172	1,431	81.90%
UF4	160	2,347	2,507	93.62%



# Table 3.18 UFD ISO Fire Department Rating

Category	Earned Credit	Credit Available
513. Credit for Engine Companies	6.00	6
523. Credit for Reserve Pumpers	0.50	0.50
532. Credit for Pumper Capacity	3.00	3
549. Credit for Ladder Service	4.00	4
553. Credit for Ladder and Service Trucks	0.00	0.50
561. Credit for Deployment Analysis	9.56	10
571. Credit for Company Personnel	9.61	15
581. Credit for Training	7.35	9
730. Credit for Operational Considerations	2.00	2
<b>Item 590. Credit for Fire Department:</b>	<b>42.02</b>	<b>50</b>



# Table 3.19 ISO FPSA Rating

FSRS Item	Earned Credit	Credit Available
440. Credit for Emergency Communications	9.55	10
590. Credit for Fire Department	42.05	50
640. Credit for Water Supply	36.65	40
1050. Community Risk Reduction	4.22	5.50
<b>Total Credit</b>	<b>90.92</b>	<b>105.50</b>



# Table 3.22 Shift Relief Factor Calculations (RUU)

<b>Shift Hours</b>	<b>Raw Shift Hours Total Annual</b>	<b>Shift Relief Factor</b>	<b>Number of Daily Staff</b>	<b>Staff Required</b>
12	4380	2.69	2	6





# Key Recommendations - Specific

- ▲ 2-7: BerryDunn recommends UPD establish a patrol operational minimum staffing level of 44 positions which will be achieved by adding seven sworn police officer positions and six non-sworn Community Service Responder (CSR) positions to patrol.
- ▲ 2-12: Due to the specific laws, rules, and protocols associated with IA investigations, the UPD should develop a policy and practice that only staff with appropriate training in IA investigations will be allowed to conduct IA investigations.
- ▲ 3-2: BerryDunn recommends the leadership UFD engage a collaborative process to develop new and updated vision statements, along with a strategic plan that outlines current and contemporary goals and objectives for the UFD.



## Key Recommendations – Specific

- ▲ 3-4: BerryDunn recommends the UFD collaborate with METCAD and other countywide fire departments to examine AVL protocols and to develop SOPs that engage AVL only in specific circumstances (e.g., critical emergencies or situations that might have a long delay in response).
- ▲ 3-5: The UFD should develop a policy that empowers battalion chiefs and captains, to assess resource deployments assigned through AVL, and to redirect or cancel dispatched resources based on specific criteria. The policy should also establish conditions to trigger apparatus staging when district units are out of the area or will be unavailable for an extended time.
- ▲ 3-6: The UFD should add a Rescue/Utility Unit (RUU) for response to EMS related CFS and other minor UFD response CFS that do not require a full company and apparatus deployment.
- ▲ 3-7: The UFD should assess all EMS/ALS service types and identify which should include a multiunit response, and which do not require it.



# Next Steps

- ▲ Finalize Essential CFS Report and Data
- ▲ Discuss Alternative Response Opportunities and Develop an Alternative Response Plan
- ▲ Ratify the Alternative Response Plan and Identify an Implementation Strategy



# Questions and Further Discussion

**Michele Weinzetl**

Senior Manager: Consulting Team

[mweinzetl@berrydunn.com](mailto:mweinzetl@berrydunn.com)

207-842-8120

763-286-5623

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

---

**From:** Sharon Irish <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Marlin, Diane  
**Subject:** BerryDunn report phase one

\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\*

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Marlin,

Please read this message into the record.

I write regarding the BerryDunn phase one report.

First, I'd like to acknowledge that Chief Boone met with me in December of 2023 for over an hour and I appreciate his taking the time to discuss my concerns. I have also attended at least two other community meetings where he was present, at Urbana Middle School on February 13 and at the second public safety forum at Independent Media Center on March 24. I commend his commitment to listen and get acquainted with community issues.

Second, the Berry Dunn Report didn't find *any circumstances that produced critical/priority recommendations*. (p. 16) This is good news! I appreciate these results.

I have read the BerryDunn "Appendix A: Findings and Recommendations" and used parts of the Full Report to further my understanding. This is but one of four reports for which Urbana has contracted. While the report seems to cover a lot of aspects of staffing, it remains only one source of information, focused on police and fire departments and related entities.

It isn't clear to me who provided input to this report. [p. 12 summarizes some of their process.] I participated in the online feedback but that was opt-in for folks who have internet access and some level of motivation. Further, there are still three more reports pending from BerryDunn...we should hold off on making big budget decisions until those reports are submitted and discussed.

While Urbana paid a lot of money for these reports, I would encourage us to continue to consider other sources of information as well, such as youth forums (with incentives to participate), input from the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign Co. Mental Health Board, and other units in the city, like the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. This community investigation of public safety is not a one-and-done task; it must be ongoing and iterative.

In an effort to keep my comments brief, I'd like to stress:

- Budget decisions given limited resources are hard and at times heart-breaking. In this imperfect world, I would prioritize robust mental health services and equitable housing.
- Increase funding for mediation and conflict resolution trainings.
- If there's a choice between license plate readers and youth programs, I would support youth programs every time. I realize it's unlikely that the choices are that clear cut, but available technology should not drive our decisions about community well-being.
- Intra- and inter-agency communication is really hard work but vital to transparency and accountability. Public safety begins with relationships that build trust.
- If trained community service responders can relieve pressure on police officers and provide safe, appropriate and prompt care, then let's hire in that direction.

Thank you for your time and dedication,

Sharon Irish



Urbana, IL

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** [REDACTED] David Cisneros <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 5:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council; ! Kolisetty, Jaya  
**Subject:** Public comment 3/25/24. Please Read into record

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read into the public comment record.

Good evening. My name is David Cisneros, and I'm a resident of Ward 4. I apologize I can't be present in person tonight due to a prior commitment, so I am sending my written comment to be read into the record.

I would like to respond to the discussion of the Berry Dunn report that will be presented and discussed today.

As has been stated many times by city council members and the mayor themselves, this is an extensive multipart report of which we only have the first part here. Furthermore, it has not even been two weeks since this 300 page report was released, which is not enough time to read and discuss it. Nevertheless, I am confused and shocked by some of the recommendations in the report and especially the discussion being considered by the mayor and council to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on hiring 14 new police officers.

Why are we considering spending so much money on hiring new police officers and increasing staffing when we have not even gotten all portions of the study? Do you feel there has been enough time and opportunity for people in Urbana to digest and discuss this idea? How can we justify increasing police staffing when the reason that the report was commissioned was to study and propose alternative response models? Why would the report recommend the hiring of community responders within the police office when, once again, the discussion on the council and among the public has been focused on non-police responses to community problems? What is the justification for hiring 14 more police when non criminal calls make up the majority according to the report? Why would the very first recommendation you consider be hiring new police officers when both the mayor and council have spoken for years about "reimagining" public safety in Urbana? How would the hiring of 14 new officers make Urbana more safe when the public has said time and time again that the causes of crime are poverty, lack of jobs and other social needs? After giving hours of written and spoken public comment against this idea at city council meetings, how is the public supposed to interpret this recommendation? Does the government of Urbana represent its residents or does it serve the FOP?

As you can see, I am confused and shocked, and I have many questions. But one thing I know is that I am opposed to spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on hiring over a dozen more officers. I hope the council will sincerely listen to its residence as much as it listens to the police chief and highly paid consultants. The public is telling you how to create real safety in Urbana if you care to listen.



March 23, 2024

Dear Mayor Marlin,

On October 20, 2023, you wrote that Sola Gratia would no longer be using Prairie Winds to access their property in Eagle Ridge, in violation of City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2005-02-025, once they installed a driveway where they have legal access.<sup>1</sup>

After nearly two years of using Prairie Winds to access their property, trespassing back and forth between Eagle Ridge and Prairie Winds, Sola Gratia finally installed an access drive around Thanksgiving 2023.<sup>2</sup> In their December 2023 Newsletter, Sola Gratia publicly announced “Our driveway has been finished! There’s now access to the farm off of Mumford.”<sup>3</sup>

Despite your promise, Sola Gratia is using Prairie Winds to access their property in Eagle Ridge more than they did last year, including for moving heavy construction equipment.

We have worked in good faith towards resolving the ongoing problem of violation of City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2005-02-025 with you for a year. You have chosen in past communications to portray this issue as a “conflict”. This is not a conflict, difference of opinion, or similar. It is simple failure on your part to enforce the law.

We have debunked the series of made-up, non-legal arguments that you have presented in attempts to justify your ongoing violation of City of Urbana Ordinance 2005-02-025 in writing. You have refused to provide any admissible evidence to support your assertion that you are not violating City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2005-02-025. You place the burden of demonstrating that what is ours is ours, which we have more than met; and then you deny it, without providing any evidence to the contrary. Your denial of violating City of Urbana Ordinance 2005-02-025 is tantamount to fraud.<sup>4</sup> Further, we know that you do enforce these ordinances for others in at least 3 instances in southeast Urbana.

In your email of October 20, 2023, you state that your “position” is not to enforce the City of Urbana Ordinance 2005-02-02. Yet the only possible valid “position” that can be taken by you in your official capacity is to impartially enforce the law.

Traci Barkley, Director of Sola Gratia, reiterated via email to us on March 20, 2024 that you continue to represent to her that Sola Gratia has your full authority to continue to violate the law. She has threatened us with police action (not for the first time; and you have as well) and in every appearance acts as an agent of the city.

---

<sup>1</sup> Without so much as asking Prairie Winds owners, it is our understanding that you instructed Sola Gratia to access their property in Eagle Ridge through Prairie Winds. In doing so, you broke/violated the law of City of Urbana Code No. 2005-02-025; violated the due process clause; and violated the taking clause. This has resulted in an unlawful taking of property (i.e., thief) from Prairie Winds owners.

<sup>2</sup> The construction job should not have taken more than 5 business days, yet this has dragged on for years.

<sup>3</sup> Sola Gratia has never publicly shared that it accesses their property through an illegal access point.

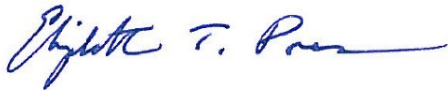
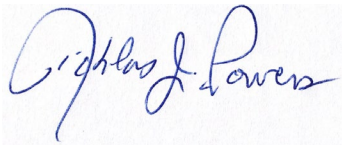
<sup>4</sup> It is not different than if Sola Gratia told you they wanted our car, you claim that Sola Gratia owns our car, we show you the title (unequivocal evidence of ownership), and you reply “that car is Sola Gratia’s”.

Your coercive threats constitute criminal extortion of our property. Similarly, your avowed denial of your ongoing violations of City of Urbana Ordinance 2005-02-025 constitutes criminal fraudulent taking of our property.

In his September 19, 2023 written response to you, Mr. Paul Tatman eloquently explained to you why your breaking of the law is very destructive to the community. Prairie Winds owners have invested many millions of dollars in infrastructure. Sola Gratia has contributed not one penny, yet they reap the benefits of our enormous investment. To add insult to injury, Sola Gratia has literally destroyed Prairie Winds. Damages are in excess of \$3.2 million dollars. Mayor Tod Satterthwaite, the City Council and The Urbana Plan Commission intelligently and deliberately created City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2005-02-025 to forbid the very thing that you have done to us.

Your refusal to enforce the law is unacceptable. You must cease and desist in your deliberate delays and intransigence. It is your duty to enforce city ordinances impartially and without further delay.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth & Nick Powers

████████████████████  
Urbana, IL 61802

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

---

**From:** Ma'ayan Weinberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:11 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input: 3/25/24

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear members of the Urbana City Council,

Please see below the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation's Committee on Antisemitism's response Resolution No. 2024-03-013R. We respectfully request that this statement is read aloud into public record at the next City Council meeting.

### **The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation Committee on Antisemitism - Response to Urbana City Council Resolution No. 2024-03-013R**

On March 18, 2024, the Urbana City Council passed a resolution entitled "Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace". For the reasons discussed below, The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation (CUJF) cannot support the resolution as it was ultimately passed.

The original text of the Urbana City Council resolution was drafted by a group of individuals in the Urbana-Champaign community and intended to represent the viewpoints of different segments in the community. While the resolution does not address all of the points that the CUJF Board would have liked to see in a city council resolution (as per the CUJF Board Statement of Feb. 29, which was presented to the Urbana City Council on Feb. 29 and is copied in full below\*), the Board recognizes and appreciates that the City Council sought input from a broad and diverse selection of viewpoints held by Urbana residents, and sought to articulate those values that we all hold in common. The resolution as originally written calls for peace, justice, and coexistence, and we feel that all of these are shared values held widely across both Champaign and Urbana -- even shared by those who may disagree on a particular geopolitical issue.

Unfortunately, the resolution that was originally drafted by community members was amended at the March 18 meeting, with text calling for a halt of military aid to Israel and implicitly placing all blame for the Israel-Hamas war on Israel.

Item #6, which originally read as: 6. Urge the United States government and international community to prioritize funding tools of peace over weapons of war to create conditions for reconciliation between Israel and Palestine, which is the foundation for a just, secure, and lasting peace was amended to: *6. Call the United States Government and International community to stop funding weapons of war to Israel so as to create conditions for reconciliation between Israel and Palestine which is the foundation for a just, secure, and lasting peace.*

The version with this amendment is the one passed by Urbana City Council. CUJF cannot support this amendment and hence can no longer support the resolution.

**[CUJF Board Statement approved on February 29, 2024, presented to Urbana City Council on February 29, 2024:](#)**

The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation (CUJF) is a non-profit organization that serves the local Jewish community. It provides and supports local Jewish programs and activities. It provides help to local members of the Jewish community in need; supports humanitarian causes locally, in Israel and in other places; educates the Champaign-Urbana community about Jewish issues; and provides resources and education in fighting antisemitism. CUJF promotes equality of opportunity and full civil rights and civil liberties for all.

The CUJF Board of Directors feels an obligation to respond to recent proposals and statements made before the Urbana City Council regarding the war between Israel and Hamas.

Any discussion concerning the Israel-Hamas war needs to unequivocally (i) condemn the massacre of October 7, 2023 perpetrated by Hamas; (ii) demand the immediate return of the remaining hostages in Gaza; (iii) call for the dismantling of Hamas, a terrorist organization that has explicitly called for the killing of all Jews; and (iv) acknowledge the responsibility of Hamas in the current plight of the civilians in Gaza.

While we affirm the right of everyone to speak their mind openly in a public forum, we are deeply distressed by the flood of divisive, hateful and antisemitic rhetoric that has been commonplace during public discussions of similar resolutions around the country as well as during discussions of the specific proposal that was brought to the Urbana City Council in January 2024. While much of the local discussion has been civil, if heated, we have heard numerous accusations of genocide, claims that Israeli soldiers are worse than Nazis, references to "lynch mobs roam[ing] freely," comments about Zionists "screaming their lungs out with rabid red faces saying they wanted more massacres," and implications that those opposing the proposed resolution do not value human life. This rhetoric serves only to further sow division in Urbana and the surrounding areas, and to intimidate and marginalize many in the local Jewish community.

We fervently hope for a lasting peace for all in the Middle East and recognize that this is a painful time for many Champaign-Urbana residents with familial and other connections to the region. We believe that the way to acknowledge and respect the pain in the community is to work on forging human connections and building bridges through communication, tolerance, and compassion.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Olga Tumanova <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:38 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** cujf@cujf.org  
**Subject:** public input

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Response to City Council Resolution

Urbana City Council ,

We are outraged by this resolution in the name of all Champaign-Urbana population without ever asking for community opinion on the subject! We totally disagree with virtually every paragraph of it!

1. No Palestinians are or ever were unjustly held by Israeli prisons. Only terrorists and killers are held in Israeli prisons.
2. The just and lasting peace between Israel and Gaza and peaceful life for population of Gaza is only possible after Hamas is eliminated. They hold their own people hostages killing anybody who does not cooperate or tries to escape their world of terror.  
Humanitarian aid to Gaza is provided daily in huge quantities- see the videoclips showing a young man, probably a Hamas member, opening the aid and badmouthing the content as not tasty or different from their cousine! Hamas steals humanitarian aid from their own people!
3. Palestinians in Gaza do not want a sovereign state- they are not used to making their own decisions - they have been living only at Israeli and international donors' expense! They are used to freebies! None of the arab and muslim states around Israel with plenty of land to spare want them! NONE! They only want them as killers of Israelis- exactly where they are and what they have been doing for decades- all population of Gaza including little kids brought up and programed to hate and kill Jews. The only countries "helping" Hamas is Iran and Russia- and only WITH MORE WEAPONS!  
  
Israel always had free elections!
4. Whatever pro-Hamas organizations are proclaiming, all civilized countries must want to end terrorism before it sweeps the civilized world. This process is already destroying all the countries who accepted " refugees" from the arab world. They do not want to assimilate into the civilized world, they do not want to work for their living, they do not want to even learn the local language. The only thing they want is to be provided for. Vast majority of the "refugees" join the armies of criminals and

people living on social assistance. In Denmark video showed the family that went back to where they came from to celebrate getting Dutch citizenship!!!

Americans obviously forgot 9.11 attacks on America! Those were the same killer with the same values and vision of the world as Hamas savages! THE SAME! Nobody told Americans to stop and not hunt down BenLaden and his group. How different is today's events in Israel, where a demonic wave of robbers, savages, killers, rapists swept into Israel with the only goal: kill, mutilate, rape and rob peaceful population! They did not spare the elderly, women and children, they ripped babies from mother's bellies and killed both.

HOW CAN CIVILIZED PEOPLE TAKE THEIR SIDE!? They called their families as they were killing and reported how many Jews they had killed to the cheers from their "peaceful" relatives! Watch videos, listen to taped phone conversations- It is all on line!

450 UN members participated in the attack! How can we listen to the UN after that!? Not till they investigate their actions and take measures that UN workers work for peace like they are expected and paid to do!

5. To unify our community, you should be honestly reporting the events in Israel. The City Council is apparently influenced by Hamas supporters and act on their behalf.

6. The US government and all other civilized countries should help Israel eliminate Hamas with funds, weapons and other supplies. Israel is fighting for all the rest of the civilized world. Any and all terrorists and their active supporters must be deported back to their countries of origin.

7. City Clerk cannot speak for the community that was left in the dark about their action! Our hefty taxes pay your salaries and any actions in the name of the community must be discussed in the community and not only in the City Council.

8. We stand for every possible support of Israeli effort to eliminate Hamas.

Hamas, Iran, Putin regime- these are all the same evil forces trying to seize control and destroy the civilized world.

By issuing this document you participate in their efforts.

O. Tumanova.

My best,  
Olga Tumanova

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Melissa Lyke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 12:04 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 3/25/24

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I would like to lend my support for allowing skaters and artists to use the parking lot at 304 Central Ave, Urbana, IL 61801 as a public creative space where people can paint, build sculptures, and make other art. I believe that the common consensus amongst the Urbana skate community is that we are very happy and excited with the plans the Park District has for the skatepark at Weaver Park. This lot would serve a different function than the Weaver Park Skatepark, and would be in addition to, and not in replacement of, the skatepark. My vision for the lot is that artists, builders, and skaters could build obstacles ourselves at the park. We are not looking for the park district to build on this lot, we would like to build ourselves and use this space for creative expression through building and art and create a space that can evolve as the skate scene evolves. I believe this recommendation would also ease concerns in regards to liability. This space would not be expressly designated for skateboarding, but as a creative space. I think the bare bones of what the skaters are asking for from the city of Urbana is to not use city resources to tear down any installations built here or remove people from this space.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Lyke