

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Live In-Person Meeting

1970 W. Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43223

October 20, 2022

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Harry Trombitas, called to order the October 20, 2022, meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:00 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Brent Currence.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

IN-PERSON

Ohio Attorney General's Office	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert	Clark Donley (via conf. call)
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Victim's Advocate	Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Ronald Myers
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Prater
Ohio Department of Aging	Erin Pettegrew

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Ohio Association of Police Chiefs	Chief Clayton Harris
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Vacant
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Vacant
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Brian Castner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Ron Raines
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Pam Walker
Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatch Manager	Matt Stegner
Marion County Sheriff's Office	Captain Lydia Frey

II. APPROVAL OF THE July 21, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Motion was made to accept by Sheriff Ronald Myers. Kathryn Farmer seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Captain Raines advised there were two (2) Amber Alerts issued during this quarter. He went over each one in detail. He also explained how the activation works for Ms. Pettegrew's benefit. Captain Raines advised that LUMEN line was unable to activate/deactivate due to a password

reset technical problem through the company. Also, WEA continued to generate long after the alert was cancelled.

Ms. Pettegrew asked what the term “pink slipped” meant. Ms. Merritt explained that law enforcement essentially are forcing them to be admitted to a mental health hospital.

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts during the second quarter.

Ms. Pettegrew asked, “Going back to the Amber Alerts, the WEA interruption is there any update there?” Capt. Raines explained that during a previous meeting there was an incident that the messages didn’t activate the EAS & WEA properly through the iPAWS system. iPAWS was upgrading their system to a cloud. When the activation went through, it was too much information for the cloud to activate both, so it issued through EAS and not WEA. As it worked out, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is able to activate the WEA for us until the iPAWS system is working properly.

C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts:

There were two (2) Endangered Missing Child Alerts this quarter. Mr. Currence explained each one in detail. He then brought up a question presented to him by his agents, “What’s the difference between an *online* assailant versus one off the street? Why not an AMBER Alert instead of the Missing Endangered Child Alert?” A lengthy discussion was held regarding abduction vs. enticement. It’s a situational decision and tough to clarify.

D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts:

Brent Currence advised there were 36 Endangered Missing Adult Alerts issued for the last quarter. There were zero deaths and eight (8) of the recoveries came from the public and/or family.

E. Alerts Training update:

There were no trainings conducted during the third quarter. A training is scheduled for November 18, 2022, at the Portage County S.O. with both morning and afternoon sessions. Also discussed the options of in-person vs. virtual training.

F. 2022 Alerts Conference:

Brent felt the conference went well and congratulated the committee. Had a lot of positive feedback for the speakers and content.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Captain Raines advised that all current Governor Appointments to the Committee will expire on the same day in February, 2023. For those who wish to remain on the committee, there is no need to fill out another application. Sheriff Myers advised that he will not be seeking appointment for 2023 and that Jim Crawford is likely to step up. Ryn Farmer suggested a possible appointment from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities may be a good addition. Captain Raines advised he will be taking the place of Captain Matt Warren of OSHP.

A motion to approve adding new members was made by Ryn Farmer and was seconded by Christine Merritt. Motion passed.

The Committee is looking into possibly combining next year's AMBER Alert Conference with CECOMM's conference.

A motion was made by Paul Jellison to give committee members an option if they are unable to attend meetings in person to have a call in option available. Ryn Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was discussed to keep the Committee meeting dates on the 3rd Thursday of January, April, July, and October, 2023 at 10:00 am, but return the meetings to the EMA offices. All agreed to move the location to the EMA location.

V. COMMENTS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheriff Myers and seconded by Harry Trombias. Motion passed.



Brent Currence, Chairperson

1/19/2023

Date