

**OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2017**

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee Chairman, Captain Kenneth Kocab, called to order the April 25, 2017 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:15 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lindy Davis, OSHP.

**I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT**

Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Kenneth Kocab
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert	Clark Donley
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Ronald Myers
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Bricker
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison

**ROLL CALL – ABSENT**

Victim's Advocate	Maggie Maloy
Ohio Attorney General's Office, Missing Persons Unit	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Special Agent Kristin Cadieux
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Clayton Harris
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Ronald (Dave) Ford

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Lindy Davis
Ohio State Highway Patrol	DM Lydia Frey
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Major Shawn Davis
Ohio 911 Program Office	Rob Jackson
Ohio 911 Program Office	Nick Levin
Lorain City Council	Angel Arroyo Jr.
Coalition for Hispanic/Latin Issues & Progress	Martin Liebas

**A QUORUM WAS NOT DECLARED**

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 25, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Captain Kocab indicated the motion to adopt the January 25, 2017, meeting minutes would be postponed until the next quarterly meeting since a quorum was not declared.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Review of AMBER Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there were five (5) AMBER Alerts for the reporting period and one (1) alert that did not meet criteria. He gave a brief overview of each.

#### B. Review of Blue Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there was one (1) Blue Alert for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview.

#### C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts

In Brent Currence's absence, no Endangered Missing Child Alert information was available.

#### D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts

In Brent Currence's absence, Captain Kocab shared there were twenty-two (22) Endangered Missing Adult Alerts for the reporting period. All adults were recovered safely, with the exception of one (1) individual who is still missing.

#### E. Airport/Public Transit Update

Captain Kocab indicated at the request of the committee, DM Lydia Frey, Lindy Davis, and himself reviewed all the material available from the Columbus airport in an effort to create a template that could be shared with other airports. In reviewing the material and following-up with the Columbus airport, it was determined the information is no longer relevant due to internal changes within their IT systems. Captain Kocab indicated DM Frey and he would start the process over with the Columbus airport and build the template as they move through the development process.

Sheriff Myers asked if the IT staff at the Columbus airport had changed. Captain Kocab indicated he believed so and shared when attempts were made to follow-up on the status, the airport construction was a factor. He shared from his understanding the process being developed at the time was a manual one and their goal was to automate it. Captain Kocab indicated the feedback received was the project was being put on hold until the airport construction was complete and their IT systems fully integrated into the new airport system.

Harry Trombitas suggested the use of License Plate Readers (LPRs) at the Columbus airport arrivals and departures and feeding the information into the airport dispatch. Captain Kocab indicated some of the larger airports may already have a LPR system and he would follow-up.

Clark Donley arrived and his attendance marked appropriately.

Clark Donley provided an update on the status of COTA. He shared COTA has been on board with alerts for several months with no issue. He shared he also reached out to Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Dayton. Clark Donley indicated Cleveland responded immediately and the request to add them to the distribution was sent to Captain Kocab, Brent Currence, and Lindy Davis. Clark Donley said COTA and the Cleveland Transit Authority will receive the alerts and

transmit the information to their bus drivers and train operators. To date, he has not received a response from Cincinnati or Dayton.

F. AMBER Website Update

Captain Kocab shared the 2017 National Missing Children's Day poster contest winners were posted to the website on February 28.

On a side note, Captain Kocab shared there have been recent inquiries as to why AMBER alert information is not always posted or activated sooner in the process. One of the inquiries was reference WEA and why it took so long to activate in a recent alert. He shared the AMBER Alert process starts at the local level and it can take several hours before it is escalated to the state level. Captain Kocab indicated the statewide WEA in question was activated within 25 minutes of their receipt of the alert notification.

Captain Kocab indicated the second inquiry was reference posting alert information to the website in a more timely manner. Clark Donley indicated his concern was when the AMBER Alert tweet goes out, the message directs you to the AMBER website and many times the website homepage has no alert information. Sheriff Myers suggested a place holder on the AMBER home page acknowledging the alert and that further information is forthcoming. Clark Donley suggested not sending the tweet until the website is populated and if possible, include more information in the tweet. DM Lydia Frey asked for clarity on the tweet and who generates it. Captain Kocab indicated the tweet comes from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Sheriff Myers read an inquiry he received expressing the same concern mentioned by Clark Donley.

Captain Kocab shared he went back and reviewed the AMBER Alerts issued in 2017 and found from the time the Hub was notified until the child was recovered, the following were the total timeframes by alert date:

- 01/30/17 - 2 hours, 17 minutes
- 03/07/17 - 24 minutes
- 03/14/17 - 3 hours, 48 minutes
- 03/18/17 - 1 hour, 2 minutes
- 04/04/17 - 1 hour, 32 minutes

Captain Kocab indicated the average total activation time on the above alerts was approximately 40 minutes.

Harry Trombitas suggested a live tweeter feed that could be updated as information becomes available. Captain Kocab indicated the Attorney General's Office generates the tweeter feed and additional tweets are sent when OHLEG is updated. Clark Donley suggested that after each update the information be saved, thus generating a tweeter feed.

Captain Kocab shared the Hub gets the information and determines if it is a valid alert. The information given by the investigating agency is then populated into LEADS, pushed over to OHLEG, and sent out via tweeter. He shared during this process, there are a lot of gaps in the information due to the on-going investigation. Clark Donley inquired when the Hub is contacted, is the information already entered into LEADS by the local agency. DM Lydia Frey

indicated sometimes. Clark Donley asked once entered into LEADS, does the information go straight to OHLEG automatically. DM Lydia Frey indicated it must be entered manually. Captain Kocab shared during the alert process there are three different groups working. The dispatcher get the LEADS message and turns it over to the Hub commander. The Hub commander then contacts the agency to validate the alert and notifies the dispatchers to begin the activation process (OHLEG, EAS message, Safer Ohio Repository (website), Quest line, etc.). The Hub analysts then begin searching social media to gather information, photos, and cell phone information for pinging. If the activation is statewide, it is one recording. If multiple zone activations are needed, each has to be done separately. Captain Kocab said there is no one at the Attorney General's Office actively engaged in the incident to push new tweets out, especially after hours. Clark Donley said a slower tweet with more information is better than an earlier tweet with no information. Harry Trombitas shared he didn't want to delay getting information out as they are timely investigations and the AMBER website is a secondary tool. Sheriff Myers said if the investigating agency is still investigating, it may be awhile before the notification is received by the Hub. He questioned why the tweets are going out so fast. Harry Trombitas said there has to be criteria and if information is available, it should be sent out. He suggested setting up a committee to pursue further. Captain Kocab indicated this would need to involve the AG's IT, DPS IT, Brent Currence, DM Frey, Clark Donley, Paul Jellison, Captain Kocab, and anyone else interested in participating. Captain Kocab suggested setting something up in the near future.

G. Training Update

Captain Kocab provided an update on the alert training completed since the last quarterly meeting. Training was provided to the City of Franklin (Dispatch, Fire & EMS) on February 16 and the Gold Star Awards. Going forward, training is scheduled for Williams County Communications in September.

H. Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee Reappointments

Captain Kocab inquired if everyone received their paperwork from Boards and Commissions. He distributed the re-appointments already received.

I. 2017 Ohio Alerts Conference Update

Lindy Davis shared the conference is scheduled on August 17 at the Columbus Police Academy, with registration opening at 7:30 a.m. The Columbus Police Color Guard has been confirmed and will open the event. Mustard Seed will provide the continental breakfast and lunch will be through City BBQ. Lindy Davis reviewed the conference schedule and thanked the sponsors to date, Ohio Association of Broadcasters and the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. Clark Donley indicated he is still waiting to hear from the Columbus Police Foundation.

Harry Trombitas inquired if we had access to e-mails addresses from the 2016 conference attendees. Lindy Davis indicated a master registration list is kept for each conference, which should contain e-mail addresses. Harry Trombitas suggested using this list to send out quarterly updates on the alerts to keep our conference attendees engaged and updated. Captain Kocab suggested giving the attendees interested in receiving this correspondence an opportunity to sign-up.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee – Chairperson Memorandum**

Captain Kocab shared he contacted Trista Turley at the Attorney General’s Office to see if a committee co-chair could be appointed to conduct the quarterly meeting in the event the chair is out for an extended time, as has happened in the past. He shared it is his understanding the committee can establish this via a motion or discussion, but cannot create any formal title. Clark Donley suggested when the chair is absent the first item on the meeting agenda should be establishing which committee member will conduct the quarterly meeting. The committee agreed.

**B. New Business**

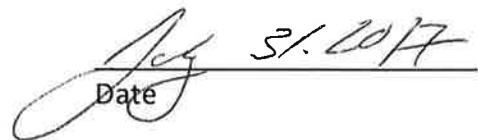
Rob Jackson shared next generation 9-1-1 is coming soon and indicated we may need to perform a comprehensive review of our alert strategies once in place. He also indicated the joint Ohio State Fair booth has been approved and he will work through Lindy Davis to schedule coverage. Rob Jackson shared the 9-1-1 Symposium will be scheduled in September, with the date to be determined.

Captain Kocab thanked Angel Arroyo Jr. and Martin Liebas for attending the meeting. Angel Arroyo Jr. and Martin Liebas both shared their desire to help bring missing children (victims of human trafficking, runaways, etc.) home and to educate the public. Martin Liebas extended an invite to present at their 2018 conference. Captain Kocab extended an invitation to them to attend the 2017 Ohio Alerts Conference in August. Lindy Davis will forward the registration information.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

No quorum, meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

  
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Captain Kenneth Kocab, Chairperson

  
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Date