

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 12, 2012 – 11:00 A.M.
CITY HALL – 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM – 2ND FLOOR**



The Columbia City Council Public Safety Committee conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Leona K. Plough (non-committee member) and Council-Elect Mr. Moe Baddourah (non-committee member) were present.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Columbia Police Department Updates

Mr. Leslie Wisner, Deputy Police Chief gave updates on the following reports:

- **Staffing**

Changes were made regarding the retirement system. Currently, the department has a total of forty (40) vacancies in which twenty-three (23) vacancies are at the patrol level. Some initiatives were made with the Community Services Division. The police process center is now represented by Fort Jackson to assist veterans with employment to include increasing diversity. In effort to assist individuals with the application process, the police department has developed a CPD101 class on the 1st Tuesdays of the month.

- **Grants**

The Police Department was not successful in receiving the Gun Interdiction Grant. Currently, the Criminal Domestic Violence Grant is still pending.

- **Sociable City / Hospitality District Study**

Councilor Newman asked that staff follow up with Mr. Scott Linaberry with briefing the committee on the Hospitality District Study recommendations.

- **Encroachments**

Mr. Leslie Wisler, Deputy Police Chief provided an update regarding encroachments in Five Points.

Council-Elect Moe Baddourah pointed out some concerns with safety and traffic at the University of South Carolina ball games. Recommendations were made to increase funding so that the Police Department can help monitor security.

Councilor Newman asked that staff brief the committee on the coordination between the Police Department and USC traffic control and use of Hospitality Tax at the next Public Safety meeting.

2. Municipal Court Judges

Ms. Dana Turner, Chief Administrative Judge reported that five (5) Municipal Court Judges are up for reappointment.

Councilor Newman asked that this matter be scheduled at the next city council meeting.

3. Fire Department Attrition Study

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Department Chief presented the Fire Attrition Study results. The report was prepared by the University of South Carolina Institute for Public Service and Policy Research. The institute surveyed twenty-one (21) metropolitan fire departments in the southeastern United States on the compensation and training practices. Nine (9) of the departments responded to the survey. The size of the departments ranged from 115 to 820 suppression personnel, with the average size being Four-Hundred (415). Five (5) of the departments provide paramedic level medical response; two (2) provide EMT level; three (3) of the departments provide transport service.

Councilor Newman asked that staff provide a continual update of the Attrition Study for fiscal year 2012/2013.

4. Winter Shelter Alternatives

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager provided an update on the Winter Shelter alternatives with Ebenezer Lutheran Church and the Salvation Army. The city will continue providing security during feedings at Ebenezer Lutheran Church until March 2013.

Dr. David Parker, University of South Carolina shared opinions on ways to be more efficient with the Winter Shelter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.