

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL SECOND CONFERENCE ROOM  
1737 MAIN STREET**



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Members of the Columbia City Council conducted a Public Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan, The Honorable Leona Plough (Non-committee member) and The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Non-committee member) were present.

**APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

*No one appeared at this time.*

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Councilor Newman introduced three (3) college leaders. He invited them to participate with the outlined discussions.

- Ms. Lauren Harper, Student Body President and Chief of Staff for the University of South Carolina
- James White, Student Body President for Benedict College
- Ted Frezdell, Student Body Vice President for Benedict College

1. [Emergency Preparedness](#)

Captain Larry Johnson, Special Operations Division and Emergency Operation Center Coordinator for the Columbia Police Department presented an overview of all Hazardardous Emergency Preparedness within the City of Columbia, which are based on the standards of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. He said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is responsible for decision making; it does not run off of incidents; it is responsible for reviewing and updating the city level operations plans; coordinating ongoing and specific training for all hazard methodology; and providing access to resources and training for employees and the community. He outlined the concepts for handling active shooters; training is available for employees and the community. He said the CPD coordinates with the Fire Department and Public Works to help with all hazards and manmade and natural disasters.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked if training is available for public and private schools regarding active shooters.

Captain Larry Johnson, Special Operations Division and Emergency Operation Center Coordinator for Columbia Police Department said yes; Richland County School Districts have security personnel to help with training and all of the City's School Resource Officers have been trained.

Ms. Lauren Harper, Student Body President and Chief of Staff for the University of South Carolina asked how the City is contributing to student safety.

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief said overall communication has improved; the department has participated in round table discussions with various student bodies and administrations and provided information to USC, Allen and Benedict Colleges about the Hospitality Districts and environmental awareness.

Mr. James White, Student Body President for Benedict College asked will CPD consider security officers to help supplement law enforcement in Five Points.

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief said no; a security officer doesn’t fall under the command of the police department. He said an individual establishment can employ the security officers.

2. Police Department Update ([2015/2019 Strategic Plan](#))

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief provided an overview of the Columbia Police Department’s Five (5) Year Strategic Plan. He pointed out the National Average Violent Crime Index. He said there has been a decrease in violent crimes in the urban areas and an increase in crimes in the sub-urban areas.

Councilor Newman asked that staff give a follow-up presentation on the strategic plan at the next committee meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.**

Submitted by:

Niki Daniels, City Clerk’s Assistant  
Office of the City Clerk