



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Safety Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at the Busby Street Community Center, 1735 Busby Street, Columbia, SC 29203. The Honorable Will Brennan, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Will Brennan	Chair	Present
Tina N. Herbert	Member	Present
Peter M. Brown	Member	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of May 21, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Brown, the Committee members voted unanimously to approve the May 21, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Review of Options to Expand the Current Curfew for Minors - Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief – *Received as information*

Police Chief Holbrook explored the possibility of enacting and enforcing a curfew for minors. He reviewed Ordinance 2011-059, referred to as the Five Points Curfew and the second ordinance known as the Youth Loitering Curfew. Both ordinances address the hours in which underage people can be within certain areas with specific exceptions. The only other curfews we've had were during the COVID State of Emergency and the period of civil unrest in 2020. Neither are still in effect. He highlighted the curfew in Myrtle Beach and its role in dispersing large crowds rather than broadly restricting youth activity. He provided statistical insights showing a decline in juvenile crimes since 2020, particularly in violent offenses. He noted significantly higher juvenile crimes in zip code 29203 in comparison to the other zip codes within the city. In 2024, there has been an overall reduction in shootings but an increase in juvenile shootings.



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024**

Councilman Bailey inquired about demographic trends within the city. He recommended surveying other municipalities and their ordinances in regards to enforcement and exploring the idea of a potential ordinance that states ramifications for curfew violations.

There was discussion about the benefits of a geographic curfew; confinement and parental responsibility; and strengthening options for enforcement.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager suggested looking for solutions to address the individuals with a history of bad behavior instead of a blanket curfew.

Mr. Trevon Fordham, Director of the Office of Violent Crime Prevention presented the current engagement and education strategies. He acknowledged the importance of collaboration and the city's unique role in having such an office. He highlighted lessening youth violence through community engagement, educating residents on violence prevention, and enhancing public awareness of city initiatives. Plans included launching a multimedia safety campaign, increasing partnerships with local organizations for workshops, and addressing root causes of violence through data-driven research and community-based interventions. He announced that October is Youth Justice Action Month.

There was discussion about the importance of a public awareness campaign to underscore being home by midnight and job fairs to employ youth; connecting with schools and the school districts; bridging the gap between the Police Department and schools; and the Handle with Care program.

There was consensus of the committee to review the existing curfew ordinances to determine their validity.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk