



**COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Columbia Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Howard E. Duvall	Chair	Present	
Tina N. Herbert	Member	Present	
Peter M. Brown	Member	Present	

**PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**

1. Columbia Police Department Update - Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief provided year-to-date statistics on the Crime in Columbia along with a year-to-date comparison, four week total and current and previous week comparisons. Crime totals are down by 2%. He presented the person hit shooting and ShotSpotter dashboards. These dashboards provide demographic information by police region. Year-to-date, ShotSpotter has provided 900 alerts. He highlighted the Gun Violence Assessment and Action Plan for August 2023, which is a renewed strategic focus. The biggest advancement has been the real-time crime center. Current initiatives include: Operation Hope and Order, Operation Welcome Back, USC Campus Village Public Safety Initiative, and the alternative response initiative.

The committee asked that future reports include the total number of vehicles that were locked and unlocked when stolen.

**Vehicles for Hire**

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief explained that any vehicle operating for hire in the city of Columbia is required to obtain a chauffeurs permit through the Columbia Police Department. Permits must be displayed within the vehicle. City Code requires a driver's license with a clean 10-year record, physical examination by a physician, a SLED criminal report, negative drug test, two recent photographs, a \$25 application fee, and participation in the Famously Hot Hospitality Class for new permits. He reported that a rogue taxi service has been identified and we will take the appropriate enforcement action.



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Ms. Indika Bandara expressed concerns about a taxi cab operating in this city without meeting the requirements. There should be a rule requiring a business owner to have lived here for a year before applying for a permit.

There was consensus of the committee to encourage Ms. Bandara to report additional concerns to the city.

2. Columbia - Richland Fire Department Update - Mr. Aubrey D. Jenkins, Fire Chief

Mr. Will Broscious, Community Risk Reduction Chief / Fire Accreditation provided an update on First Due, which is the department's records management system and part of the daily fire management system that was implemented a month ago. Phase two consists of installing communications systems at all fire stations.

Mr. Aubrey D. Jenkins, Columbia Fire Chief reported that the department is working with Fleet Services on current needs and to improve efficiencies. All personnel have been sized and the second set of bunker gear has been ordered with expected delivery by the end of the year. The city acquired land for the new Olympia Fire House and the Procurement Department has worked through the request for qualifications for the training burn building. Recently, conditional offers have been made to 23 firefighters.

Year-to-Date Highlights:

- 3,388 training hours
- 3,363 inspections
- 1,000 public education events, 589 plan reviews, and 145 special events year.
- 23,268 calls
- Performed CPR 122 times
- Used specialized equipment for technical rescues 336 times.
- Administered Narcan 93 times for suspected opioid overdoses.
- Developed a 2022 Annual Report

Committee members encouraged the Fire Department to begin working with local businesses to develop public-private partnerships. There was support for restoring the Adopt-a-Fire Station Program.



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3. Columbia Emergency Management Department Update - Mr. Harry Tinsley, Director

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Director of Emergency Management reported that 137 camera sites are currently operational. The Command Central Aware Platform will be used for live-monitoring of security cameras, video analytics and other technology integrations. We work with area partners to develop incident action plans for planned and emergency events. The Emergency Management team participated in numerous activities and tours to include the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station Graded Full-Scale Exercise 50 Mile Emergency Protection Zone, a Hurricane Workshop with SCEMD, and the Urban League Youth Academy EOC Tour.

Committee members inquired about Active Intruder Training.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC  
City Clerk