



**COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Public Safety Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr. called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Proposed Amendments to the Fireworks Ordinance – The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr.

Councilor Duvall proposed that Sec. 14-108(d) be amended to reflect the following penalties: first offense at \$100; second offense at \$250; and third offense at \$500. Amend Sec. 14-108(b) so that no fireworks can be discharged between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. On January 1 and July 5, fireworks cannot be discharged between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney agreed to clarify the language in Sec. 14-108(b). She also recalled the request to include additional holidays in the ordinance.

There was consensus of the Committee to amend the current fireworks ordinance as outlined by Mr. Duvall so that it closely mirrors Richland County's ordinance.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

2. Office of Violent Crime Prevention Update - Mr. Trevon Fordham, Director of Violent Crime Prevention

Mr. Trevon Fordham, MSCJ, M.Ed., Director for the Office of Violent Crime Prevention provided an overview of the Office of Violent Crime Prevention. Work is being done in three stages: assessment (where we were), forming (where we are), and planning (where we are going). Next steps range from hiring staff to assist with coordination to creating an external framework for addressing violent crime. Highlights include creation of the office's aim, goals



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and summary; submission of a JAG grant; hosting a youth symposium; increased collaborations with Richland One; and near completion of the assessment.

There was a request to discuss the definition for individuals who lawfully carry firearms, exposing youth to other career opportunities, and notifying council members of events held within their districts.

Ms. Pam Benjamin, CPM, Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services added that through the One City Future Ready Program with Richland School District One and the Premiere to Career Program with Richland School District Two, the city's Human Resources Department has placed students in various city departments during the school year and during the summer.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief said Trevon is making his rounds. He is typically where we are and he is reaching those touchpoints where we don't. Giffords Law Center estimates that fatal gun crime costs over \$800,000. The community impact is far reaching. We appreciate the investment and confidence you have in us.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk