



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Safety Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Will Brennan, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m. and the following members were present:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of June 25, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Herbert, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the June 25, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

2. Columbia Police Department Briefing - Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief – *Received as information*

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief reported increases in homicides and aggravated assaults, attributing much of the latter to non-fatal shootings and incidents involving the unsheltered population. He emphasized the connection between public safety and environmental efforts like lot cleanups, lighting, and property maintenance in underserved areas. The department has cleared 25 encampments and made over 190 arrests related to unsheltered individuals, along with 240+ service contacts. A 15-year-old from Charlotte was linked to 150 car break-ins. This illustrates how single offenders impact crime stats. He also stressed how environmental control directly supports crime reduction.



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Investigator Cannon Fulmer, Crime Analyst/Columbia Police Department shared that serious violent crime is decreasing nationwide and emphasized the strength of Columbia's coordinated approach to addressing gun violence. He highlighted the work of the Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Unit, which has achieved a 100% clearance rate both last year and this year. The department's focus on identifying violent blocks rather than labeling entire neighborhoods is allowing for more targeted and effective interventions.

There was discussion about a third-party contract for cleaning out homeless encampments; working with the Sherriff's department; maintaining levels of reduction in crime; residents owning the amenities of their neighborhoods; data to back up why churches should own property; and the deployment of officers for support requests.

Councilor Brown left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief recognized Captain P.J. Blendowski and Captain Jeffery Brink for their recent professional development achievements and introduced the Columbia Police Department's new summer marketing interns: Ms. Kamari Parrish, Ms. Jewel James, Ms. Logan Davis, Ms. Tamia Devine, and Ms. Morgan Perry.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC, CPM
City Clerk