

AN ORDINANCE

NO. _____

An Ordinance amending Sections 2-234 and 2-234.1 of the Columbus Code so as to provide that the Public Safety Advisory Commission may review certain closed investigations of the Columbus Police Department and may subpoena persons concerning certain closed investigations; and for other purposes.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Section 2-234 of the Columbus Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 2-234 is substituted to read as follows:

“Sec. 2-234 - Duties.

(a) The Commission shall strive to create a climate of mutual respect and partnership between the community and public safety departments which helps achieve safety, order and justice for all citizens of Columbus.

(b) The Commission shall attempt to increase communication between public safety departments and the community, leading to a greater understanding of law enforcement operations in Columbus.

(c) The Commission shall identify public safety policy and resource issues related to law enforcement operations and methods of alternative policing.

(d) The Commission shall strive to decrease misunderstandings regarding the application of adopted public safety policies and procedures.

(e) The Commission shall provide recommendations and input related to public safety policies and procedures in an effort to reflect community values.

(f) The Commission shall assist the Mayor and the Columbus Council in balancing community priorities and resources by advising it on public safety resource issues.

(g) The Commission shall strive to ensure that the policies and procedures of public safety departments protect the civil rights and liberties of everyone in Columbus.

(h) The Commission shall promote public safety operations which respect and reflect Columbus' rich culture and diversity.

(i) The Commission shall work to increase communications, understanding and trust between public safety personnel and citizens of Columbus.

(j) The Commission shall encourage problem solving and partnerships between citizens, neighborhoods and public safety departments.

(k) The Commission shall work to provide fair opportunities for citizens and criminal justice professionals to comment and participate with respect to the commission's operations and recommendations to Columbus Council.

(l) The Commission shall make and present an annual written report to the Mayor and Columbus Council regarding its activities.

(m) Commission members shall complete the Columbus Police Department Citizens Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) training program within 12 months of adoption of this ordinance or within 12 months of taking a seat on the Commission, whichever is later.”

SECTION 2.

A new Section 2-234.1 is hereby added to the Columbus Code to read as follows:

“Sec. 2-234.1 - Review of Certain Closed Investigations

(a) The Commission shall have authority to receive and review closed investigations into alleged misconduct of officers of the Columbus Police Department or other public safety departments. For purposes of this ordinance, an investigation is closed when it is complete and all direct litigation involving such investigation or prosecution has become final or otherwise terminated.

(b) The Commission shall have the authority to review closed investigations of the Columbus Police Department when deadly force as described in O.C.G.A. Section 17-4-20 and Section 3-2 of the Columbus Police Department Policy Manual has been used by any member of the Columbus Police Department.

(c) In closed investigations, the Commission shall have the authority to issue subpoenas in the furtherance of its investigative duties.

(d) The Commission may present written recommendations to the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia and the Columbus Police Department as to any matter relevant to such investigations, including recommendations as to further disciplinary action or termination of sworn personnel. Such recommendations shall not be binding upon the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia or the Columbus Police Department.”

SECTION 3.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 11th day of August, 2020; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said council held on the ____ day of _____, 2020 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation vote of ____ members of Council.

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|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Councilor Allen | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Barnes | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Crabb | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Davis | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Garrett | voting | _____. |
| Councilor House | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Huff | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Thomas | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Thompson | voting | _____. |
| Councilor Woodson | voting | _____. |

Sandra T. Davis
Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor