AN ORDINANCE

NO _____

An Ordinance amending Section 17-25 of the Columbus Code to revise certain Columbus Police Department promotional requirements; and for other purposes.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Section 17-25 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety, and a new Section 17-25 is inserted to read as follows:

"Sec. 17-25. - Eligibility for promotions.

(a) For promotion to police sergeant. To be eligible to participate in the promotional procedure for police sergeant, the employee must hold the rank of police officer or its equivalent as determined by the chief of police and have a minimum of five years of sworn law enforcement service in a full-time status in any jurisdiction, to include service in the miliary police, For purposes of computation of service, all eligibles who will have completed the fifth year of such service on the date on which the written phase of the sergeant's promotional procedure is given, shall be deemed to have met the length of service requirement.

(b) For promotion to police lieutenant. To be eligible to participate in the promotional procedure for police lieutenant, the employee must hold the rank of police sergeant and have a minimum of two years' continuous service, including the probationary period, as a police sergeant with the Police Department of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia. For purposes of computation of service, eligibles who will have completed the first year of such service on the date on which the written phase of the lieutenant's promotional procedure is given, shall be deemed to have met the length of service requirement to take part in the lieutenant assessment. Candidates will not be eligible for promotion to the rank of lieutenant until they have completed two continuous years of service as a sergeant.

(c) For promotion to police captain. To be eligible to participate in the promotional procedure for police captain, the employee must hold the rank of police lieutenant and have a minimum of two years of continuous service, including the probationary period, as a police lieutenant with the Police Department of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia. All eligibles who have completed the first year of service on the first day of the captain's assessment center shall be deemed to have met the length of service requirement to take part in the captain's assessment. Candidates are not eligible for promotion to the rank of captain until they have completed two continuous years of service as a lieutenant.

(d) To be eligible to participate in any promotional procedure for sergeant or higher rank, the officer must successfully complete an 18-month probation period at the Columbus Police Department. This probationary period may be credited toward the five-year minimum service required by paragraph (a) above. To be eligible to participate in any future promotional procedure for lieutenant and captain, the employee must possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in any field within the educational guidelines set forth by this Columbus Police Department. No college degree is required for sergeant."

SECTION 2.

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

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 13th day of October 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____ 2026, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Barnes	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Cook	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

_____
Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council

_____
B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor