

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION – COLUMBUS, GA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 19, 2025

Location: Emergency Management Center (EMC), City Hall

Start Time: 4:00 PM

Adjournment Time: 5:00 PM

Recorder: Sarah Maglione

Attendees

Commission Members Present:

Walter Taylor (Chair), Chuck McClure, Mitch Watkins, Pete Berry, Sarah Maglione, Abdel Hernandez, Belvin Millner, Scott Taft, David Horiuchi

City Agency Representative:

Daniel Hord, Fire and EMS

Guests:

Mayor Skip Henderson, Councilor Gary Allen

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Chair Walter Taylor, who welcomed Mayor Skip Henderson and Councilor Gary Allen.

Mayor Henderson provided historical context on the formation of the Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC), stating it was created in response to the killing of Kenneth Walker. The commission was established to rebuild trust between the community and law enforcement and to improve communication.

Mayor Henderson emphasized the commission's key functions:

- Reviewing closed use-of-force reports
- Reviewing citizen complaint forms
- Engaging with all public safety departments
- Enhancing communication between agencies and the public

Commission members noted that they are no longer receiving closed use-of-force reports for review.

Mayor Henderson proposed the following action items:

- Have the PSAC Chair attend monthly public safety leadership meetings.
- Add a dedicated PSAC section to the city's public safety webpage.
- Encourage PSAC member attendance at National Night Out events in August to increase community visibility.
- Include a representative from the Warden's Office in future PSAC meetings. Abdel Hernandez supported this recommendation.

Additional Items Discussed:

- **Social Media Outreach:** Daniel Hord stated that the Fire and EMS Department would be willing to share PSAC-related content on their Facebook page if materials are provided (e.g., mission, contact info).
- **Technology Needs:** Chuck McClure noted the need for virtual meeting capabilities for members unable to attend in person.
- **New Reporting Tool:** David Horiuchi presented "Blue Honor Line," an anonymous reporting system for law enforcement, intended to intervene in or prevent misconduct.
- **Membership Vacancies:** Members informed Mayor Henderson and Councilor Allen of two current vacancies—Districts 2 and 3.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.
