

Memorandum

To: Common Council

From: John Weidl, City Manager

Date: 4/30/2026

Subject- Recommendation on Incorporating Public Safety Review into City Commission Structure

A Council Member has asked whether public safety components such as considerations related to camera systems, crosswalks, and pedestrian and bicycle safety could be brought forward as a future agenda item, and how it might be incorporated into an existing committee structure.

Public safety considerations of this nature span multiple areas of responsibility, including law enforcement, infrastructure, and transportation. As a result, no single commission currently has sole ownership of these issues.

If the Council's intent is to refer this question to an existing body for further evaluation and recommendation, the most appropriate committee to consider whether and how to incorporate a safety component would be the Public Works Committee (or equivalent body overseeing infrastructure and transportation).

This is because:

- Public Works is responsible for crosswalks, roadway design, visibility, and right-of-way safety
- Many of the concerns raised (pedestrian movement, bicycle interaction, sightlines) fall directly within their technical and operational expertise
- The committee is already positioned to evaluate how safety considerations integrate with physical design and city infrastructure

The Police Department would remain a key partner in providing input, particularly related to enforcement and tools such as camera systems, but these functions are typically operational rather than governed by a standing advisory or policy commission.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission may also provide valuable input; however, it serves in an advisory capacity under the Parks and Recreation Board and does not have primary authority over infrastructure or regulatory matters.

The Alcohol Licensing Committee, while more narrowly focused on alcohol regulation and compliance, could be utilized if the Council prefers to incorporate a safety component within that body. If so, this would likely be done by:

- Directing that certain applications or situations involving licensed premises include a safety review component



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- Requesting input from Police and Public Works as part of the Committee's review process
- Incorporating safety-related considerations into the Committee's evaluation criteria where relevant to licensed activities

This approach would keep the Committee within its general regulatory function while allowing consideration of safety factors tied to specific circumstances.

Based on these considerations, if Council wishes to have a committee further vet the concept and provide a recommendation, referring the matter to the Public Works Committee, with input from Police and other relevant staff, would align most closely with existing roles and responsibilities.