

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 – 11:00 A.M.
LINCOLN STREET PARKING GARAGE
CONFERENCE ROOM – 820 WASHINGTON STREET**



The Columbia City Council Public Safety Committee conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2012 at the Lincoln Street Parking Garage Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m., The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman was present. The Honorable Sam Davis was absence.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Hospitality Zoning Assessment

Mr. Scott Linaberry, President of the Five Points Association presented information about the Hospitality Zoning Assessment concerning the Four Business Districts: Five Points, Vista, Main Street and Harbison. Recommendations were made to form a new committee; refine the mission and objectives; and establish the direction the City wants to pursue in the development of the Hospitality Districts. The priorities of the team will focus on organizing information on rules, regulations, inspections and other tools. This information can be provided to businesses in a handbook or checklist for use as a reference and self-inspection. The Hospitality Team was established with an aim of improving collaboration between nightlife venue operators.

Mr. Randy Scott, Police Chief said in the last two (2) months changes were made with establishing a new Hospitality Team. Currently, a job advertisement has been prepared in hiring a new Business License Representative.

Councilor Newman recommended that this matter be discussed by the full Council.

2. Traffic Calming in Five Points

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer reported the feasibility for installing traffic roundabouts in the Five Points area. Currently, the department is in the process of working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) with the designs in developing a two (2) lane roundabout on Harden Street. In the last two (2) months, the department has installed ladder crosswalks, no turn on red traffic signs and push button signals for pedestrian safety. A circulation count was completed to gauge traffic volumes during the University of South Carolina (USC) football games. In a few weeks, the department will complete an out-of-town traffic count during the weekend of the USC/Georgia game.

Councilor Newman asked staff about closing a portion of the street during night hours.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager said a lot of options were discussed and the department talked to DOT and the Five Points Association about closing a portion of Harden Street during the night hours. At this point, the department feels that the pedestrian crosswalk and traffic signs are the best solutions for safety.

Mr. Randy Scott, Police Chief said the Police Department will close a portion of the street during emergency cases. The department will re-direct high volume traffic during football games for pedestrian safety.

Councilor Baddourah encouraged the Police Department to continue to monitor traffic volume throughout the USC football season.

3. Notices to Property Owners

Ms. Melissa Gentry P.E., Assistant City Manager explained that staff is in the process of combining records from various departments into one (1) database to stop nuisances compartment to the same property. Code Enforcement, Legal, Columbia Police Department and the Fire Department are scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 20th to discuss the problem as a group. A report is scheduled to be presented at the next committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by:

Niki Daniels, City Clerk's Assistant
Office of the City Clerk