

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT  
JULY 24, 2012 – 11:00 A.M.  
LINCOLN STREET PARKING GARAGE  
CONFERENCE ROOM – 820 WASHINGTON STREET**

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The Columbia City Council Public Safety Committee conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at the Lincoln Street Parking Garage Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Leona K. Plough (non-committee member) and The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan (non-committee member) were present.

**APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

*No one appeared at this time.*

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1. Columbia Police Department Updates

Mr. Randy Scott, Police Chief provided updates on the following reports:

- **Cell Phones**

As-of-to-date PACE Officers have cellphones and their information will be available to citizens.

- **Homelessness**

A compilation of information and statistics was presented on homelessness concerns in the city. The essential business purpose of the Police Department is not aligned with providing social services to the homeless. The department is encouraged to partner with businesses that are best situated with providing those services. A recommendation was made to establish a Homeless Outreach Team to help police officers team with volunteer service providers including a Homeless Opportunity Project Evaluators Coordination Center to help with medical, substance abuse and other counseling problems and establishing a HOPE Center adjacent to the Winter Shelter.

- **Crime Analysis Progress**

Two (2) positions were awarded to the Police Department Crime Analysis Unit. With assistance from the University of South Carolina Criminal Justice Department, the Police Department upgraded the Record Management System (RMS) software by implementing a streamlined incident report and validation process to help make data collections more efficient. Currently, patrol vehicles have access to complete the field based reporting electronically through RMS. The department has implemented an analytical device called Analyst Notebook, which will support chart crime networks and RAIDS Online, which is an online tool to allow citizens to research crime mapping in their community. The online devices will be available in August.

- **Shoplifting**

Deputy Chief Leslie Wisner reported that the appropriate guidelines are now prepared for merchants and the Police Department to conduct the proper arrest for violators of shoplifting.

2. Neighborhood Traffic Control Update

Councilor Baddourah requested a traffic study for the Shandon, Rosewood and Hampton Neighborhoods near South Holly Street. He asked that staff bring the recommendations back at the next committee meeting.

3. Assignment of a Permanent Judge to the Livability Court

Ms. Dana Turner, Chief Administrative Judge explained the process of Code Enforcement Officers writing a uniform ordinance summons to citizens and how the violations are presented to the Livability Court. One concern pointed out was the number of violations a person can receive before enforcement can take place. The only action the Judge has with hearing a case in the Livability Court is to a fine or to impose jail time. The court does not have the authority to order demolition; however, the court will accept recommendations of the Code Enforcement Officers to impose a fine or jail time to repeat offenders.

The committee suggested that staff work with Legal regarding hiring a permanent judge for the Livability Court. The committee asked that staff follow up with Solicitor Dan Johnson for more recommendations on code enforcement from a prosecution perspective.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager said he will get the code enforcement process for demolition of property to full council.

4. Winter Shelter Update

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager reported that the Winter Shelter is primarily a safety issue for the population who need housing during the winter months beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and ending March 2013. The first Request for Proposal was rejected; another RFP is scheduled to be sent out next month with Council's input. A committee is being formed. By mid-September a staff member will be in place to operate the winter shelter by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**

Submitted by:

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