

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
NOVEMBER 19, 2013 – 11:00 A.M.
CITY HALL SECOND CONFERENCE ROOM
1737 MAIN STREET**



Members of the Columbia City Council conducted a Public Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at City Hall Second Floor Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. and The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Leona K. Plough (Non-committee member) were present.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Upcoming South Carolina Department of Public Safety Grants

Chris Segars, Grants Professional gave an update on the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). There was a consensus of several departments to not submit an application for the JABG grant. The purpose of the JAG grant is to assist state agencies and local governments in carrying out specific programs that offer a high probability of improving the functioning of the criminal justice system. The Police Department has requested to submit two (2) applications for the JAG grant to cover two (2) Gang Investigators and two (2) Criminal Domestic Violence (CDV) Investigators. The match for the proposed application for the Gang Investigators is approximately \$24,000 and the match for the proposed application for the CDV Investigators is approximately \$25,000. The due date for the JAG grant application is January 10, 2014. This was presented as information only.

2. Review of the Sale of Individual Cigarettes

Ms. Jeanne Brooks, Esq., Assistant City Attorney reported that there is no ordinance in the State of South Carolina addressing the sale of individual cigarettes; tobacco sales are regulated exclusively by federal law and under the code of regulations, it is illegal to break open a pack of cigarettes to sale individually. The method of enforcing this law will have to come through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and working with local law enforcement. As a practical matter, a lot of cities have created a local ordinance for enforcement.

Councilor Baddourah asked that the Legal Department draft an ordinance addressing the sale of individual cigarettes and to present the ordinance at the next City Council Meeting.

3. Update on Pedestrian Crossings

Councilor Baddourah asked staff to create a uniform style of pedestrian crossing signs around the entire City, starting with the Hospitality Districts.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works confirmed that Assembly Street, Gervais Street, Main Street and Five Points each have their own pedestrian crossing signs.

Councilor Newman asked that this matter be scheduled for Council's discussion. He said a lot of our districts are unique and require their own identity.

Councilor Baddourah asked that staff present recommendations of the pedestrian crossing signs for the Hospitality Districts at the next committee meeting.

- **The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.**

Submitted by:

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