



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 6, 2024

Re: Amending Chapter 21 of the City Code to Provide the Police Chief an Extension of Time to Reconsider a Preliminary Determination When a Complaint is Filed Against a Police Officer

Executive Summary

An ordinance has been prepared amending Sec. 21-52(h) of the City Code to allow the police chief, for good cause, to extend the number of days for reconsideration of the chief's preliminary determination. These proposed revisions were recommended by the Citizens Police Review Board.

Discussion

As the City Code is currently written, if the Citizens Police Review Board disagrees with the police chief and recommends a disposition of a complaint other than the preliminary determination made by the police chief, the chief only has five (5) business days to reconsider the preliminary determination and either reaffirm or modify it. If the police chief does not take action within the five (5) business days after the Board's findings and recommendation, the preliminary determination and preliminary recommendation for discipline is automatically reaffirmed. The City Code does not provide the police chief with an opportunity to extend this time period for reconsideration if there is good cause.

On March 13, 2024, the Citizens Police Review Board discussed these changes and unanimously passed a motion to recommend the proposed amendment to Sec. 21-52(h) of the City Code. The proposed amendment will allow the police chief, for good cause, to extend the five (5) business days for reconsideration to a date certain specified in writing by the police chief, with notice to the complainant, the police officer, the Board, and the city manager.

City Code and Missouri state law provide outer parameters on the time period available for the good cause extension. Any good cause extension by the police chief must still allow the City to comply with the time periods set forth in Sec. 19-252 of the City Code and in Sec. 590.502 RSMo. Time needed for the resolution of an appeal to the city manager will further restrict the time available to the police chief for the good cause extension. It is anticipated that the police chief will work cooperatively with the city manager to ensure that the city manager has adequate time, within the constraints of state law, by which to complete the city manager's review of an appeal.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.

Long-Term Impact: None.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Tertiary Impact: Safe Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
04/01/2024	REP26-24 - Communication from the Citizens Police Review Board relating to Chapter 21 amendments to provide the police chief an extension of time to reconsider a preliminary determination.

Suggested Council Action

Passage of the ordinance.