

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 259-21

AN ORDINANCE

amending Chapter 21 of the City Code relating to the Citizens Police Review Board; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended as follows:

Material to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~; material to be added underlined.

Sec. 21-44. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to provide an external and independent process for review of actual or perceived misconduct by police officers ~~and community service aides~~ thereby increasing the police department's accountability to the community and community trust in the police department.

Sec. 21-45. Definitions and rule of construction.

The following definitions and rules of construction apply to this article:

Board, when not otherwise specified, means the citizens police review board.

~~*Community service aide* means a uniformed civilian employee who does not have the power of arrest and served in the Columbia police department with a position title of "community service aide."~~

Complainant means a person who files a complaint with the police department or with the city clerk against a police officer ~~or a community service aide~~.

Complaint means a written statement alleging misconduct of a police officer ~~or community service aide~~ involving interaction with the public.

Misconduct means any violation of federal law, state law, city ordinance, city regulation or police department policy, guideline, directive, rule, regulation or order in effect at the time of the incident.

Notice shall be considered given when it is hand delivered or three (3) business days after it is mailed.

Police officer and officer" means a commissioned law enforcement officer, other than the chief of police, who has the power of arrest and who serves in the Columbia Police Department.

Written statement means a narrative, reduced to writing, outlining an allegation of misconduct that includes the personal identifying information of the individual filing the complaint. Such writings include, but are not limited to, letters, emails, complaint forms, digital submissions, internal memorandums or oral statement that has been reduced to writing by an individual who has received the information from the complainant or the complainant's representative.

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Sec. 21-47. Officers; meetings; quorum; rules.

(a) The board shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members. The term of these officers shall be one (1) year. The chair shall preside at meetings. The vice-chair shall preside when the chair is absent or otherwise unable to preside.

(b) The board shall meet monthly. When requested by the board the police chief or the chief's designee shall attend board meetings to serve as an informational resource for the board. The board shall provide an opportunity for public comment at each monthly meeting. The board shall meet semi-annually with the chief of police to discuss issues of concern and to recommend ways that the police can improve their relationship with citizens. The board may also make recommendations regarding policies, rules, hiring, training and the complaint process.

(c) Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

(d) The board may establish rules and procedures that do not conflict with local, state, or federal law ~~this code~~ or the rules and regulations governing the investigating department(s) ~~internal affairs investigations~~.

(e) Board members shall follow the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Code of Ethics.

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Sec. 21-49. Duties.

The citizens police review board shall have the following duties:

- (1) Review appeals from the police chief's decisions on alleged misconduct as provided for in this article.
- (2) Conduct a jurisdictional review from the decision by the police chief that a person's allegations do not fall within the requirements set forth in this article related to complaints.
- (3) Host public meetings and educational programs for Columbia residents and police department.
- (4) Review and make recommendations to the police chief and city manager on police policies, procedures and training.
- (5) Conduct audits or reviews of the records of the police department for compliance with the requirements of this article.
- (6) Prepare and submit to the city council annual reports that ~~analyze citizen complaints including demographic data on complainants, complaint disposition, investigative findings and disciplinary actions. The reports should also describe the board's activities,~~ community outreach and educational programs. The reports should also set forth any recommendations made on police department policies, procedures and training. The reports shall be submitted no later than March 1 for the previous calendar year.

Sec. 21-50. ~~Reserved Internal affairs procedures; police officer and community service aide rights.~~

~~(a) The city manager shall cause police department rules and regulations to be established that provide for internal affairs investigations. These rules and regulations must be consistent with the provisions of this article and chapter 19.~~

~~(b) Police department officers and community service aides under investigation shall have the following rights in connection with internal affairs investigations:~~

- ~~(1) The police officer and community service aide may provide a written or oral statement to an investigator before investigative findings are made.~~
- ~~(2) The police officer and community service aide may have an attorney or Columbia Police Officer Association representative present during the officer's or community service aide's interview to observe the interview.~~

- (3) ~~When practicable, a police officer or community service aide interview shall be conducted during the employee's normal working hours.~~
- (4) ~~The police officer and community service aide may record the interview or obtain a copy of any recording of the interview made by the city.~~

Sec. 21-51. Complaints; police chief decision on complaint; appeals to board.

(a) Complaints may be filed with the police department or with the city clerk only by the following:

- (1) Any person who is an alleged victim of misconduct of a police officer ~~or community service aide~~; or
- (2) Any family member, friend or attorney of an alleged victim of misconduct of a police officer ~~or community service aide~~; or
- (3) Any person who witnessed alleged misconduct of a police officer ~~or community service aide~~ in person; or
- (4) Any resident of Boone County.

(b) The city clerk shall promptly forward complaints to the police chief. Complaints must be filed within one (1) year from the date of the alleged misconduct. The board shall take no action on a complaint alleging misconduct that the police department is treating as a criminal matter unless and until the police determines that the officer's ~~or community service aide's~~ alleged conduct was not criminal or a prosecutor has declined to prosecute the alleged offense or a prosecution of the alleged offense has concluded.

(c) Unless the complaint has been withdrawn or the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ is no longer employed by the city, upon conclusion of the complaint investigation process ~~shall conclude with a decision by the police chief~~ shall render a decision within five (5) days that:

- (1) ~~the~~ The complaint is unfounded (acts complained of did not occur or were misconstrued);_;
- (2) ~~the~~ The complaint is not sustained (insufficient facts established to either prove or disprove the acts complained of);_;
- (3) ~~the~~ The complaint is sustained (sufficient facts established to prove misconduct);_; or

- (4) ~~the~~ The officer or community service aide is exonerated (acts complained of occurred but were justified, lawful and proper).

If the complaint is sustained, the police chief shall take appropriate disciplinary action.

(d) The police chief shall ~~promptly~~ give written notice of the decision ~~and any disciplinary action~~ to the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ and the complainant within five (5) days of the conclusion of the administrative investigation. The notice shall include information on the right and manner of appealing the decision of the chief as set forth in this code article to the citizens police review board.

(e) ~~If the police chief sustains the complaint, the police officer may appeal to the personnel advisory board or the city manager as set forth in Chapter 19. If the police chief finds that the complaint is not sustained, unfounded or if the officer is exonerated, the complainant may appeal to the citizens police review board. Any appeal by the police officer shall be pursuant to Chapter 19. The police officer, the community service aide and the complainant have the right to appeal the police chief's decision to the board. An appeal to the board must be made in writing and delivered to the city clerk. The clerk must receive the appeal within ten (10) thirty (30) days after the notice of the chief's decision was given. The appeal must be either hand delivered to the office of the city clerk or sent to the city clerk by United States Mail, facsimile machine or electronic mail.~~

(f) When an appeal has been filed, the city clerk shall promptly notify all board members and the police chief. Within two (2) business days, the ~~The~~ police chief shall promptly forward to each board member a copy of all police department records pertaining to the complaint and the investigation of the complaint.

Sec. 21-51.1. Request for jurisdictional review.

(a) Upon a written request, the board shall conduct a jurisdictional review from the decision by the police chief that a person's allegations do not fall within the requirements set forth in this article related to complaints, including but not limited to:

- (1) An appeal of a determination that the complaint or concern was untimely filed, as defined in section 21-51(b).
- (2) An appeal of a determination that the person failed to allege misconduct, as defined in section 21-45.
- (3) An appeal of a determination that the person does not meet the requirements set forth in section 21-51(a).

(b) Requests for jurisdictional limited ~~limited~~ review pursuant to this section shall be filed with the city clerk within ten (10) thirty (30) days after the person is given notice of the determination by the police chief.

(c) When a request for jurisdictional review has been filed, the city clerk shall promptly notify all board members and the police chief. The police chief shall promptly forward to each board member a copy of the person's allegations, any relevant police or city policies, records relating to any police investigation, and a copy of the police chief's written notice.

(d) The board shall review the records provided to determine if the person timely filed a complaint within the meaning of this article. In reaching its determination, the board shall limit the scope of its review to determine if the police chief's determination was correct. The scope of the board's review shall be limited to a jurisdictional review of the records. The board shall not hear public comment and shall not call witnesses.

(e) If the board agrees with the police chief's determination, the board shall notify the police chief, the police officer ~~or community service aide~~, and the complainant of its determination. If the board disagrees with the police chief and finds that the complainant has timely filed a complaint, the board shall notify the police chief, the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ and the complainant. The police chief shall proceed with an investigation of the complaint ~~or shall refer the complaint to mediation~~.

Sec. 21-52. Board review of police chief's decision on complaints and recommendation.

(a) The board shall review the record of the investigation and may request the police chief to order further investigation. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the city shall contract with independent investigators to assist the board in its investigations of alleged misconduct.

(b) The board, as part of the review of an appeal, may interview and hear comments from witnesses to the incident under investigation. The board shall not allow comments by the general public as part of the review.

(c) The police chief and all police officers ~~and community service aides~~ shall cooperate with the board in its review of appeals from the police chief's decision. Cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, appearing before the board upon request and answering all questions honestly and thoroughly. Failure to cooperate shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any police officer under investigation shall have the rights provided in article VII of chapter 19.

(d) The board shall provide timely updates on the progress of the review and any follow-up investigation to the complainant and the police officer ~~and community service aide~~, unless the specific facts of the review and investigation would prohibit such updates.

(e) The board may decline further action on an appeal if it determines that the alleged acts of misconduct are false and that the complainant knew they were false when the appeal was filed.

(f) After completing its review and investigation, the board shall report its findings and recommendations to the city manager, the police chief, the police officer, ~~the community service aide~~ and the complainant.

(g) If the board agrees with the police chief's disposition of the complaint, it shall give notice to ~~the police officer, the community service aide and the complainant~~ that they have of the right to appeal the chief's decision as provided in section 21-53.

(h) If the board recommends a disposition of the complaint other than the disposition made by the police chief, the chief shall have five (5) ~~ten (10)~~ business days to reconsider the original decision and either reaffirm or modify it. The chief shall give written notice of the decision to the board, the city manager, the police officer, ~~the community service aide~~ and the complainant. The police chief shall also give notice to the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ and the complainant that they have of the right to appeal the chief's decision ~~as provided for in section 21-53~~. If the chief takes no action within five (5) ~~ten (10)~~ business days after the date of the board's findings and recommendation, the original decision is automatically reaffirmed and the board shall give notice to the police officer, ~~the community service aide~~ and the complainant that they have of the right to appeal the chief's decision ~~as provided for in section 21-53~~.

Sec. 21-53. Appeals to city manager ~~or personnel advisory board~~.

(a) ~~The police officer and community service aide may appeal the police chief's decision to the personnel advisory board if the officer or community service aide was suspended, demoted or discharged. The appeal shall be made by filing a written request with the city clerk for a hearing before the personnel advisory board. The request shall set forth the employee's grievance and reasons for appeal. The request must be filed within thirty (30) days after the officer or community service aide was given notice of the right to appeal. The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 19. The director of human resources shall give the complainant ten (10) days written notice of the hearing. At the hearing, the complainant shall be allowed to testify to the facts of the incident and shall be allowed to express an opinion on the appropriate personnel advisory board action.~~

(b) ~~The police officer and community service aide may appeal the police chief's decision to the city manager if the officer's or community service aide's discipline was other than suspension, demotion or discharge. The appeal shall be made by filing a written statement with the city manager setting forth the employee's reasons for appeal. The request must be filed within thirty (30) days after the officer or community service aide was given notice of the right to appeal. The appeal shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of chapter 19. The city manager shall give notice of the appeal to the complainant and afford the complainant the opportunity to discuss the matter with the city manager.~~

(e) The complainant may appeal the police chief's decision to the city manager. The appeal shall be made by filing a written statement with the city manager explaining the reasons for the appeal. The request must be filed within ~~ten (10) thirty (30)~~ days after the complainant was given notice of the right to appeal. The city manager shall give notice of the appeal to the police officer ~~and community service aide~~. The officer ~~or community service aide~~ shall have ~~ten (10) fourteen (14)~~ days after notice has been given to file a written response to the complainant's appeal with the city manager. The officer, ~~the community service aide~~ and the complainant shall not otherwise communicate with the city manager concerning the complaint. If the employee has also appealed, the procedures of ~~subsection (a) or (b) chapter 19~~ shall be followed. If the employee has not appealed, and the city manager determines that the alleged facts may merit more severe discipline involving the suspension, demotion or discharge of the police officer ~~or community service aide~~, the city manager may refer the matter to the personnel advisory board for a hearing following the procedures set forth in chapter 19. Otherwise, the city manager may act on the appeal as the manager deems appropriate.

Sec. 21-54. ~~Open records~~ Records and meetings.

(a) All records compiled as a result of any complaint investigation shall be closed pursuant to Section 590.502 RSMo. The records compiled as a result of any complaint investigation shall not be subject to disclosure under chapter 610 RSMo. except by lawful subpoena or court order, by release approved by the officer, or as provided in section 590.070 RSMo. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2-25.3, all records pertaining to complaints filed against police officers and community service aides alleging misconduct of the police officer and community service aides shall be open records, except those closed by state or federal law or by section 21-55(b) and except that records or portions of records that would disclose the identity of an officer working undercover shall be closed.

~~(b) The board shall meet in open session except as provided in (c) and (d).~~

~~(e-b) The board shall meet in closed session to hear statements and discuss matters related to any complaint.~~

~~(1) That cannot be heard or discussed in an open meeting under state or federal law; or~~

~~(2) That would involve disclosure of the identity of an officer working undercover.~~

~~(d) Upon a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of board members present at a meeting, the board may meet in closed session:~~

~~(1) To hear statements of a witness sixteen (16) years of age or younger; or~~

~~(2) To hear statements and discuss complaints involving sexual assault or sexual intimidation.~~

Sec. 21-55. Mediation.

(a) Unless a complaint involves an allegation of criminal activity by a police officer ~~or community service aide~~, the board or the police chief may refer a complaint to mediation.

(b) If the complainant and the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ are able to reach an agreement through mediation, records relating to alleged misconduct shall be closed records to the extent allowed by law.

(c) If the complainant and the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ are unable to resolve the complaint through mediation, or a party declines to participate in mediation, the complainant and the police officer ~~or community service aide~~ may pursue the complaint or an appeal as set forth in this article.

(d) Statements by the police officer, ~~the community service aide~~, or the complainant during a mediation session shall not be used by either party for any other purpose.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor