



February 10, 2022

Honorable Mayor Treece and Honorable Members of the City Council:

During the Board's February meeting, the Board discussed its concerns related to the impact of the time limits in Section 590.502 RSMo on the City of Columbia's model of civilian oversight. In compliance with the new statute, the City adopted Section 19-252 of the Code, which adopts the time limits set forth in the state statute. It states: "The investigating department shall have ninety (90) days from receipt of a complaint to complete the investigation. The department director may, for good cause, petition the city manager for an extension of time to complete the investigation. Unless the officer consents, the city manager shall set the matter requesting an extension for hearing and shall provide notice of the hearing to the officer under investigation. The officer shall have the right to attend the hearing and to present evidence and arguments against the extension. If the city manager finds the department director has shown good cause for the granting of an extension of time to complete the investigation, the city manager shall grant an extension of up to sixty (60) days. The city manager shall grant no more than two (2), sixty (60) day extensions per investigation, except that, if there is an ongoing criminal investigation there shall be no limitation on the amount of sixty (60) day extensions. For good cause shown, the internal investigation may be tolled until the conclusion of a concurrent criminal investigation arising out of the same alleged conduct."

Board members are concerned that the police department may let the time period pass without seeking an extension and thereby avoid civilian oversight on a complaint. The Board, on a vote of five to two, passed a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt an ordinance to require the police department to request an extension of time, pursuant to Section 19-252, to allow for sufficient time for civilian oversight of each complaint. Your attention to this recommendation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wayne Boykin, Chair