



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COMMISSION

To: Honorable Members of the Columbia City Council
From: Molly Borgmeyer, Chair
Substance Abuse Advisory Commission
Date: March 16, 2017
Re: Proposed Ordinance Revision

At its February 8, 2017 meeting, the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission (SAAC) voted unanimously to recommend the portion of the City Code of Ordinance pertaining to commission membership be amended as follows:

DIVISION 10. - SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COMMISSION

(Ord. No. 21571, § 1, 1-7-13)

Sec. 2-317. - Members; terms.

- (a) The commission shall be composed of ten (10) members with the following qualifications: One (1) member shall be a representative of the University of Missouri appointed by the chancellor of the University of Missouri - Columbia; one (1) member shall be a ~~representative of the Columbia Police Department appointed by the city manager~~ certified prevention specialist; one (1) member shall be a representative of the Columbia School District appointed by the superintendent of Columbia Public Schools; one (1) member shall be a healthcare professional; one (1) member shall be a ~~student~~ under the age of twenty-five (25); and the five (5) remaining members shall have demonstrated interest in and concern for substance and alcohol abuse problems in the community.

With regard to the position appointed as a representative of the Columbia Police department, it is the understanding of the SAAC that is the only City board or commission that includes an individual who is also a city employee as a voting member. This has resulted in challenges over the years for the employee in this position, as the commission and the Police Department have at times held differing positions on issues. The commission would, however, like to request that CPD assign a staff liaison to the SAAC in a co-liaison role with the existing Department of Public Health and Human Services liaison.

In place of the CPD position, the SAAC is recommending a designated position on the commission for a certified prevention specialist, as licensed by the State of Missouri. The commission feels having this expertise in prevention will enhance the SAAC's work, including efforts to proactively prevent substance abuse.

The SAAC is also recommending the removal of the requirement that the person in the position for an individual under twenty-five be a student. The commission feels that the perspective this position brings as a young person is of more value than their perspective solely as a student. Also, the requirement that

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the person be a student is exclusive rather than inclusive and may prevent young people with other important perspectives from serving on the commission. As a related matter, this position has been very challenging to keep filled over the years and this change would broaden the pool of eligible persons. By loosening the restriction that the individual be a student, we believe we would still be able to gain important insight into the younger generation while providing for additional opportunity and stability.

Should you have any questions regarding the above requested ordinance changes, I would be more than happy to speak with you and can be reached via email at molly.borgmeyer@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time and for all you do for the City of Columbia.