

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH A
POLICE CITIZENS COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sponsored by Councilmembers Gregory and Daves.

WHEREAS, there is significant community interest in improving relationships between the community at large and the Mobile Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, the citizen community is a critical resource in improving the Police Department's community relationships; and,

WHEREAS, enhancing community relationships and community outreach efforts will promote community confidence in the Police Department and the law enforcement officers that serve this community and will facilitate community relationships necessary to promote public safety; and,

WHEREAS, to achieve greater improvement in community relationships and to further promote public safety, the City Council desires to create and establish a citizens' advisory council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, as follows:

SECTION ONE. There is hereby created and established a citizens' advisory council to be known as the Mobile Police Citizens Community Relations Advisory Council. This Advisory Council will exist with the purpose of promoting the concept that citizens, communities, and the police have a common goal. This goal is the maintenance of law and order, reduction of crime, and the protection of the community.

The Advisory Council is intended to work to promote the relationships and understandings necessary to effectively attain this purpose.

SECTION TWO. The Advisory Council shall have the following purposes:

- (A). To promote and encourage open communications and cooperation between the Mobile Police Department and the citizens of Mobile.
- (B). To develop and make recommendations directed toward informing the community of its rights and responsibilities when coming into contact with police officers.
- (C). To actively encourage and foster citizen participation in crime prevention activities.
- (D). To promote productive police and community interaction by assisting the police in achieving a greater understanding of the nature and causes of complex community problems in the areas of diversity and human relations.
- (E). To provide an effective organization that will address the concerns of the community by promoting cooperative citizen-police programs and approaches to the solutions of community crime. The Advisory Council is expected to advocate the principle that the administration of justice requires total community involvement and personal responsibility.
- (F). To keep the City Council apprised of actions taken by the Police Department which create community concern or controversy, and to make recommendations to the City Council on actions that can be taken to improve relations

between the police and the community.

(G). To strengthen bonds between the Police Department and the community, thereby ensuring equal protection and service for all citizens.

(H). To hold public meetings from time to time to solicit public input concerning ways to improve communication and partnership between the police and the communities they serve .

(I). To serve, as necessary, as a liaison between the police department and the community.

(J). To encourage active participation among the Community Action Groups and neighborhood associations in improving relationships between the police and the neighborhoods and preventing crimes. Members shall play an active part in encouraging the formation of Community Action Groups and neighborhood associations in areas where they do not exist.

SECTION THREE. The Advisory Council shall be comprised of seven members appointed by the City Council and seven members appointed by the Mayor. In addition to the members appointed by the City Council and the Mayor, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and the Federal Bureau of Investigation/Mobile Special Agent in Charge shall serve in an *ex-officio* capacity. All nominees, other than *ex-officio* members, shall be placed on the Council Agenda for approval. No member of the City Council shall be appointed to or shall serve on the Advisory Council in any capacity.

SECTION FOUR. Members of the Advisory Council must have the following qualifications:

(A). With the exception of the *ex-officio* members, they must be resident citizens of the City of Mobile.

(B). They must be concerned about police and community relations, be sensitive to community needs and perceptions, and have a willingness to commit themselves to community service and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the Advisory Council is formed.

(C). They must have a commitment to seek input from the community and to apply this input to further the purposes of the Advisory Council.

(D). They may not be employed by the City of Mobile.

(E). With the exception of the *ex-officio* members, all appointees must be graduates of a modified Mobile Police Department Citizens' Academy and must participate no less often than quarterly in police ride alongs in their district or precinct.

SECTION FIVE. The members of the Advisory Council first appointed shall serve a term that will expire on November 1, 2017. Thereafter, members of the Advisory Council shall serve for terms of two (2) years. *Ex-officio* members shall continue to serve so long as they hold their office. With the exception of *ex-officio* members, a member of the Advisory Council may be removed with or without cause by the appointing City Council member if appointed by a City Council member or by the Mayor if appointed by the Mayor.

Vacancies for any reason shall be filled in the same manner as their appointment, and such appointments shall be for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

SECTION SIX. Members of the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation.

SECTION SEVEN. The Advisory Council shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among the members of the Advisory Council. Such officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Advisory Council, shall represent the Advisory Council before the City Council, and shall otherwise serve to facilitate the business of the Advisory Council . The Chair shall use *Roberts Rules of Order* as a guide for the conduct of all meetings of the Advisory Council. The Chair shall have a vote on all matters coming before the Advisory Council .

The Vice-Chair shall exercise such duties in the absence of the Chair.

All requests for information or public records from the City must be made in writing to the Mayor or the Chief of Police and must be made upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the total membership of the Advisory Council. Individual members may not request information or public records from the Mayor or anyone reporting to the Mayor on behalf of the Advisory Council.

SECTION EIGHT. All meetings of the Advisory Council shall be open to the public, and the Advisory Council shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

SECTION NINE. A majority of the total membership of the Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum shall be required in order for the Advisory Council to conduct business.

SECTION TEN. The Advisory Council shall automatically terminate on January 1, 2021, unless continued, modified, reestablished or terminated earlier by City Council action.

ADOPTED:

CITY CLERK