

# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 21, 2021

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## **In Attendance**

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Councilman Anthony Byrd, Committee Chair, called the hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. in the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Chairman Chip Henderson, Council Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Raquetta Dotley, and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk.

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## **Others in Attendance**

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Mayor's Office: Brent Goldberg, Police: Eric Tucker, Interim Chief

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## **Approval of Minutes**

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**On motion of Vice-Chairman Ken Smith** and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (July 13, 2021) meeting stand as published.

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## **Resolutions – Agenda Item 7F**

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Mr. Goldberg noted that the grant amount would need to change. Therefore, he asked the Council to withdraw this item at their meeting tonight.

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## **Next Week's Agenda September 28, 2021**

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## **Resolution – Agenda Item 7H**

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There were no questions on this item; therefore, the issue was closed.

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## **Amendment to the Curfew Ordinance**

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Councilman Byrd asked Councilwoman Coonrod to explain the amendment that she is sponsoring regarding the city's current curfew ordinance.

### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CURFEW FOR MINORS**

She proposed changing the age to 17 and under, as well as changing the hours when curfew is in effect. Discussion ensued with Chief Tucker on the following questions:

- Ways to promote changes, if the amendment passes?(Councilman Ledford)
- Mechanisms currently in place to promote? (Councilman Byrd)

- Current age and hours in the ordinance? (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- Unintended consequences? (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- What does the current ordinance not cover? (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- Will changing to age 17 help? (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- Most recent data related to juvenile crime? (Councilwoman Dotley)
- How many calls regarding curfew? (Councilwoman Hill)

During the discussion, Attorney O'Donnell informed the Council that the current ordinance has a list of exceptions that covers the concerns voiced by some councilpersons. Councilman Ledford requested a copy of the current ordinance for the full Council. The Clerk agreed to send it.

With no objection, the Council came to a consensus to add this amendment to the two-week agenda. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

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## **Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Councilman Byrd adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.