

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XXI ESTABLISHING THE CRIME AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia:

1. That Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Code of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia is amended and reordained by adding a new Article XXI as shown on Exhibit A hereto.

2. That the purpose of the amendment is to establish the Crime and Gun Violence Prevention Commission.

3. That this ordinance shall take effect on the date of adoption.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia, at a meeting held on October 10, 2023.

Teste:

City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

ARTICLE XIX. – CRIME AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Sec. 2-841. – Established.

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the crime and gun violence prevention commission.

Sec. 2-842. – Purpose.

The purpose of the crime and gun violence prevention commission is to serve as a comprehensive resource for action-based solutions to the city's crime and gun violence prevention issues.

Sec. 2-843. – Composition; appointment and terms of members.

The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall consist of nine members appointed by city council. The membership shall ~~include two members of city council and consist of seven~~ nine at-large members. Not less than three of the at-large members shall be from community organizations to include, but not limited to, civic league presidents or designees, clergy, and community leaders. The initial at-large members shall have the following terms: ~~two~~ three members shall have a one-year term, ~~two~~ three members shall have a two-year term, and three members shall have a three-year term. Thereafter the terms of all at-large members shall be three years. Except in the case of resignation or removal by city council in accordance with section 2-846, the at-large members shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified.

~~Sec. 2-844. – Ex-officio members.~~

~~The crime and gun violence commission shall include the following nonvoting ex-officio members: city manager or designee, commonwealth's attorney or designee, city attorney or designee, chief of police or designee, sheriff or designee, director of department of economic development or designee, director of the department of parks and recreation or designee, director of permits and inspections or designee, director of planning or designee, director of department of social services or designee, director of behavior health services or designee, zoning administrator or designee, and executive director of the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority or designee.~~

Sec. 2-~~845~~ 844. – Filling of at-large member vacancies.

All at-large member vacancies on the crime and gun violence prevention commission shall be filled by appointment by the city council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Sec. 2-~~846~~ 845. – Removal of at-large members.

Any at-large member of the crime and gun violence prevention commission may be removed by city council at any time.

Sec. 2-~~847~~846. – Compensation of members.

The members of the crime and gun violence prevention commission shall serve as such without compensation.

Sec. 2-~~848~~847. – Selection and term of chair; creation and filling of other offices.

The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall choose annually one of its members to be chair for a term of one year until a successor is chosen and qualified. The crime and gun violence prevention commission may create and fill such other offices as it may determine are necessary.

Sec. 2-~~849~~848. – General powers and duties.

The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall act as an advisory group to the city government and city council on the development and implementation of comprehensive action items that collaboratively address the need to reduce crime and gun violence in the city. The commission shall aid in forging community partnerships to assist in the reduction of crime and gun violence.

Sec. 2-~~850~~849. – Adoption of bylaws, rules and regulations.

The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for its guidance as may be deemed necessary and expedient.

Sec. 2-~~851~~850. – Meetings.

The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall hold regular monthly meetings on a date and time to be fixed by the commission and such special meetings as it deems necessary.

Sec. 2-~~852~~851. – Reports.

(a) The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall provide an annual report to the city council by the end of the fiscal year and such additional reports as city council may request concerning the commission's activities.

(b) The crime and gun violence prevention commission shall furnish the city manager or their designee, whenever requested, such information as may be desired with respect to its operation and management.

Sec. 2-~~853~~852. – Review of commission actions by council.

All activities of the crime and gun violence prevention commission shall be subject to review by the city council, which may take such actions as it deems advisable.