

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council
August 1, 2023

In Attendance

Councilman Chip Henderson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Chair Raquetta Dotley, Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Ken Smith, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Councilman Darrin Ledford was not in attendance at this meeting. Others present were Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Brooke Satterfield, Deputy Chief of Staff;

Chattanooga Police Department: Celeste Murphy, Chief of Police; and Major John Chambers, Professional Standards Division;

Chattanooga's Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC): Mary Anne Hensley, Chair, and PARC members Kay Baker, Christy Rashed, Lee Clear, and Kanika Jones.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Chair Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (May 23, 2023) meeting were approved as published.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Item 6D

Ms. Satterfield, Chief Murphy, and Major Chambers gave a presentation updating the Council on the status of Chattanooga's PARC. The presentation may be viewed [here](#), and touched on the following:

- Where PARC currently stands in light of recently passed legislation (Satterfield)
- A summary of SB0591, including an overview of the new requirements for PARC (Satterfield)
- A comparison of case workflow to PARC now vs. case workflow in accordance with the new legislation (Major Chambers)
- Areas of PARC's existing authority that will remain unchanged (Major Chambers)
- The CPD's continuing commitment to transparency & community oversight (Chief Murphy)

After the presentation, Councilman Henderson opened the floor to PARC members, who voiced their concerns with the provisions of the new legislation. They stressed how well the current

PARC is working and urged the Council to contact state legislators to speak out against SB0591.

Discussion ensued with Attorney Noblett and Chief Murphy, who responded to Council's questions on SB0591, as it relates to:

- The committee's appointment, composition, size, and role
- The executive director's appointment, compensation, funding, and role
- The 120-day 'grace period' given to comply
 - Whether PARC can still meet as usual during the 120-day window
 - Consequences of non-compliance within the timeframe

Further discussion ensued with Attorney Noblett on the following:

- Why the proposed moratorium is necessary
- Whether there is any law regarding the Police Department creating its own advisory committee or board.

Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.