



RECORD OF PROCEEDING

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CHESTERFIELD CITY HALL 690 CHESTERFIELD PARKWAY WEST CONFERENCE ROOM 202

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Chairperson Mary Monachella called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairperson Mary Monachella, Ward I
Council Committee Member Lane Koch , Ward II
Council Committee Member Patricia Koch, Ward III
Council Committee Member Gary Budoor, Ward IV
Chief Cheryl Funkhouser
Associate City Attorney Nathan Bruns

ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Tocco made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Koch, to approve the December 9, 2025 Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Tocco voiced two amendments to the minutes: First, in the section related to “no solicitors” signage, the meeting minutes imply that only stickers provided by City Hall are recognized as being enforceable.

Councilmember Tocco noted that other stickers that state no solicitors, no peddlers should also be permissible. Mr. Bruns agreed that any “no soliciting” signage that is legible and posted at/near the front door of a residence is

acceptable and enforceable if violated. Councilmember Tocco's second requested amendment regarded the fee structure for legal staff (paralegal and law students) that was discussed at the meeting. Mr. Bruns previously advised that there was no change in fees and the listing for that staff was not applicable. A vote was taken with a unanimous affirmative result (4,0), and the motion was declared passed with the noted amendments to the minutes.

HALLOWEEN CONDUCT – SEX OFFENDERS

Chief Funkhouser provided information that the current City Ordinance regarding Halloween, restrictions on conduct, states that any convicted sex offender is required to post a sign stating "no candy or treats at this residence". A similar provision in a Missouri State Statute (RSMO 589.426) was deemed to be in violation of the First Amendment, is considered compelled speech, and is not enforceable. Therefore, an updated proposed ordinance will eliminate the requirement of any signage. The rest of the listed requirements listed in the ordinance remain in effect.

Councilmember Koch made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Budoor, to approve the proposed amended ordinance and forward to City Council recommending their approval. A vote was taken with a unanimous affirmative result (4,0), and the motion was declared passed.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY PROPOSAL TO INCREASE INMATE HOUSING COST

Chief Funkhouser informed Committee members that St. Louis County has sent an amended contract regarding the cost of housing municipal prisoners. Previously the cost was \$50.00 per day (24-hour period) for each prisoner. The amendment now sets the cost at \$75.00 per day (24-hour period) for each prisoner in custody. Chief Funkhouser informed the Committee members that this is a minimal increase considering that very few municipal prisoners are forwarded for holding at the County facility. This increase does not require any budget adjustments.

Councilmember Koch made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tocco, to approve the amendment regarding the increase and forward to City Council recommending City Council approval of the amendment. A vote was taken with a unanimous affirmative result (4,0), and the motion was declared passed

SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES

Associate City Attorney, Nathan Bruns led a discussion regarding the possibility of self-driving vehicles operating in the City of Chesterfield in the near future. The Committee members voiced their concerns and questioned the possibility of developing regulations regarding the operation of these vehicles. Mr. Bruns advised that a currently proposed State House Bill states that no other agency or local entity shall prohibit the operation of fully autonomous vehicles, automated driving systems, or on demand autonomous vehicle networks, or otherwise enact or keep in force rules, ordinances, or other

requirements. The State also names concern for restricting commerce if other entities attempt to restrict these autonomous vehicles (such as trucks).

Mr. Bruns noted that the State would likely pre-empt any municipal attempt to regulate these vehicles.

Noting serious accidents/incidents that have occurred in other areas of the nation, the Committee members suggested that the City Administrator and Councilmembers actively engage the Municipal League members and the City's lobbyist to solicit additional support at the State level to allow regulations of these vehicles in Chesterfield.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (ESRO's) PILOT PROGRAM

Chief Funkhouser presented the idea to begin a Pilot Program to staff additional Elementary School Resource Officers (ESRO). The Police Department is currently structured to have a total of three Elementary School Resource Officers; to date there are only two. The current shortage is due to current department wide staffing vacancies. Chief Funkhouser also noted that current staff members have a low level of interest in these positions because spending an entire workday inside an educational facility is outside of the traditional norms of police work.

Therefore, Chief Funkhouser proposed a pilot program for a new position within the Police Department. The program would provide for an officer to be

hired specifically to work within the elementary schools during the school year and have other responsibilities when school is not in session. The position would require that the officer be certified through the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training commission (POST) and the officer would work a five-day work week (Monday-Friday, no rotating shift work). During the summer months, when school is not in session, the officer would be assigned to assist with the activities throughout the City's Parks system, like field sports that are heavily scheduled during the summer months. The officer would be hired at a lower salary, comparable to the security and safety officers employed at local school districts. These positions would be funded by the City, unlike the School Resource Officers (SRO's) that are funded 75% by the school district and 25% by the City.

The pilot program would be for one year for one officer. If the pilot program is successful, additional officers for this position would be added to the Police Department staffing in a future budget year at the discretion of the City Council.

Councilmember Budoor made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Koch, to approve the ESRO Pilot Program and forward to City Council with a recommendation that they approve the suggested program. A vote was taken with a unanimous affirmative result (4,0), and the motion was declared passed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheryl Funkhouser
Chief of Police

Dianne Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____

DRAFT