



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### *Executive Order 22-03 for the City of Trenton Establishing a Citizens' Public Safety Advisory Committee*

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Trenton require that their municipal government provide public safety services in a manner that best insures their health, safety, and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of City leaders to solicit input from and coordinate with community leaders, treatment providers, and citizen volunteers to sustainably address and develop short-term and long-term strategies for improved public health and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Trenton, like many cities throughout the nation, recognizes and acknowledges the rise in property crime and violent crime throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased gun violence fueled by out-of-state weapons traffickers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Trenton, like many cities throughout the nation, recognizes and acknowledges the exacerbation of mental health, addiction, and family violence throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the ongoing opioid epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that there is a need for a formalized, efficient, and systematic communications that facilitates a productive partnership between residents and public safety personnel to create a constructive partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of Trenton need to be empowered for the organization of people in our communities to identify problems, prioritize concerns, and develop solutions which are implemented through the cooperation and collaboration of neighborhood residents, public employees, and public officials;

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vesting in the Office of the Mayor of the City of Trenton, I hereby issue this Executive Order, establishing a Public Safety Advisory Committee to allow residents to conduct the necessary business of investigating, deliberating, and formalizing recommendations for community stakeholders regarding public safety issues in the City of Trenton.

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PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Also known as: Citizens' Health And Neighborhood Growth Engagement (CHANGE) Committee*

- 22-03-010 Creation and Duties.
- 22-03-020 Membership and Rules.
- 22-03-030 Officers.
- 22-03-040 Meetings and Quorum.
- 22-03-050 Expenditure of Funds.
- 22-03-060 Report to Stakeholders.
- 22-03-070 Scope of Inquiry.

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22-03-010 Creation and Duties.

- A. The public safety advisory committee (PSAC) is established by the Mayor for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the City Administration regarding the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents.
- B. The PSAC shall conduct monthly meetings, and may conduct subcommittee meetings at its discretion.
- C. The PSAC shall submit formal reports to the Mayor every six (6) months.
- D. The PSAC may access City liaisons for assistance in collecting pertinent unprivileged information to make its recommendations.
- E. The PSAC may engage in public education and awareness outreach and/or campaigns; may solicit information from or survey residents; and may hear testimony from experts who agree to appear before the committee during a public session.
- F. The PSAC is not charged with and shall not engage in reviewing use of force complaints or citizen's complaints against public safety personnel; but may make its own recommendations after inquiries into such complaints are completed.

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22-03-020 Membership and Rules.

- A. The PSAC shall consist of a total of eleven (11) voting members.
- B. All PSAC members serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and may be removed before the end of the PSAC member's term. The Mayor may add other non-voting members to the PSAC at the Mayor's discretion.

C. No less than a majority of the PSAC members shall be residents of the City, and all PSAC members shall reside, work in, own property, or own a business within the City.

D. All PSAC members shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is appointed. The Mayor shall fill any PSAC vacancy for the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

E. The PSAC may create subcommittees to examine these issues through particular geographic, demographic, or other lenses. The PSAC may appoint members of the community to subcommittees with the written consent of the Mayor.

F. The Mayor may create ad hoc committees as needed to address community requests and issues of administrative importance.

G. Subcommittee members shall be appointed to one (1) year terms and are otherwise subject to PSAC member regulations.

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22-03-030 Officers.

A. At its initial meeting, the PSAC shall elect a chair and a vice-chair, who shall serve until the end of the current calendar year.

B. At the first meeting of each succeeding calendar year, the chair or vice-chair from the previous year shall preside over the elections for a new chair and vice-chair.

C. When the chair is absent, the vice-chair shall assume the responsibilities of the chair as chair pro tem. If the office of chair becomes vacant, the vice-chair shall become the chair and shall call an election to fill the remaining term of the vice-chair.

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22-03-040 Meetings and Quorum.

A. A majority of six (6) members of the PSAC shall constitute a quorum. Not less than a quorum of the committee may transact any business or conduct proceedings before the committee.

B. The committee may adopt and amend rules and regulations to govern policy and procedures to facilitate operations.

C. The PSAC shall convene monthly to discharge its duties, with postponed or canceled meetings to be rescheduled within the calendar year.

D. The committee shall establish regular meeting dates and meeting locations including virtual meetings at the first meeting in January of each year.

E. All meetings shall be open to the public and the PSAC shall provide notice to the public prior to all meetings.

22-03-050 Expenditure of Funds.

A. The PSAC shall obtain approval of the Business Administrator or designee before expending or obligating funds on behalf of the City.

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22-03-060 Report to Stakeholders.

A. The PSAC shall submit formal reports every six (6) months, beginning with reports due by the last day of October 2022 and April 2023. PSAC members are responsible for the creation of all reporting materials.

B. All PSAC reports shall be distributed to the Mayor, members of City Council, and City department heads, as well as to various community stakeholders as the body sees fit. These may include but are not limited to Trenton Public Schools, Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, and Trenton Housing Authority.

C. The biannual PSAC reports shall include sufficient details of the committee's activities and other matters, and specific recommendations the committee deems appropriate for the City to consider for implementation.

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22-03-070 Core Principles.

A. The PSAC shall adopt as part of its mission the following criteria:

1. Creating a workable model in problem-solving around community policing, crime, quality-of-life, social justice, and restorative justice-related issues;
2. Ensuring community health and safety needs are met, including addressing neighborhood-affiliated youth groups and advocating for nonviolent conflict resolution;
3. Serving as a community advisory group and liaison to the public at large.

B. The PSAC shall focus its scope of inquiry on the following topics:

1. Policies and Procedures
  2. Leadership, Talent, and Recruitment
  3. Use-of-Force Tactics and Less-than-Lethal Weaponry
  4. Community Relations and Partnerships
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If any provision of this Executive Order, or the application of any provision to any party or conditions, shall be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Executive Order, to the extent applicable at law, shall remain in full force and effect.

This Executive Order shall be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Business Administrator. It shall be made available to the public upon request.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
W. Reed Gusciora  
Mayor, City of Trenton

Executed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022

As to form and legality:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Wesley Bridges  
Director of Law