

RESOLUTION

TO CREATE A GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD AND SET OUT THE BOARD’S APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHEREAS, Greenville County (“County”) is a community committed to equal protection under the Laws; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Sheriff Hobart Lewis shares that community commitment to equal protection and has asked Greenville County Council (“County Council”) to participate in establishing a new citizen based advisory body on policing and public safety practices in the community; and

WHEREAS, the recent protests seen across the county have increased awareness of the need to maintain current procedures for law enforcement actions that are in step with community concerns and needs; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council, in cooperation with Sheriff Lewis, seeks to establish a new board to provide advice, and to review and educate the community on law enforcement policies and practices at the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:

- A. A Greenville County Sheriff’s Office Citizen Advisory Board (“Board”) is hereby established which shall be comprised of twelve (12) members, appointed by County Council in consultation with the Sheriff. Each member of County Council will nominate a resident from their respective Council District for appointment by vote of County Council. Prospective Board members must complete an application form, be a registered voter in Greenville County, and pass a background check. Board members cannot be: elected officials; or an employee of the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, Greenville County, or any municipality. Upon appointment to the Board, members must successfully complete the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office Citizen Academy program as soon as possible. Each Board member shall serve on the Board for a term of two (2) years. Under this subsection, County Council will appoint new Board members biennially, and fill vacancies as needed.

- B. The mission of the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office Citizen Advisory Board is to foster greater transparency and a stronger public trust between law enforcement and the community through review and discussion on certain matters related to public safety and police work in Greenville County.

- C. Upon referral or request by the Sheriff, the Board will review Sheriff’s Office policies concerning use of force, body worn cameras, K-9s, and general officer training, de-escalation training, data reporting. The Board may make recommendations and suggestions to the Sheriff regarding any changes a majority of the Board believes should be made to the policies under review. The Sheriff may also request board review of policies and practices that do not appear in the above list. Any and all recommendations made by the Board must be consistent with, and in no way contrary to, already established policies and procedures required or approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
- D. The Board is not a disciplinary review board and does not engage in internal reviews of personnel matters. The findings of the Board are recommendations and do not limit the Sheriff’s ability to govern his/her office as a duly elected officer in the State of South Carolina, as articulated under both state statutory and constitutional provisions.
- E. The Board shall meet as they may determine, and shall adopt its own bylaws and procedures in consultation with the Sheriff or his/her designee.
- F. The Sheriff shall designate a liaison from the Sheriff’s Office to attend Board meetings and work in partnership with the Board in accomplishing reviews and recommendations. The Sheriff may appoint or make available such additional staff available as needed to assist the Board.
- G. The Board is subject to the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), including, but not limited to, open meeting requirements. Board discussions implicating the development and training of Greenville County Sheriff’s Office personnel must be conducted in Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code § 30-4-70(a)(3). However, any final findings and recommendations made by the Board to the Sheriff may be published for review by the general public, provided such findings do not reveal any personally identifiable information of Greenville County Sheriff’s Office personnel, contain any information considered exempt under FOIA or is otherwise considered confidential.
- H. The Board’s term of operation will renew annually from the date of creation. The Board shall only be dissolved upon request by the Sheriff or his/her designee or by majority vote of County Council.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

 Herman G. Kirven, Jr., Chairman
 Greenville County Council

 Regina McCaskill
 Clerk to Council

 Joseph M. Kernell
 County Administrator

