

**ORDINANCE NO. 719**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE**  
**AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE**  
**CREATING THE PEACE COMMISSION**

The City Council of the City of Golden Valley hereby ordains as follows:

**Section 1.** City Code Chapter 2, Article V, Section 130 is renamed and shall read as follows:

**Sec. 2-130. – Police Employment, Accountability and Community Engagement Commission.**

(a) *Establishment.* A Police Employment, Accountability, and Community Engagement Commission (PEACE Commission) is hereby established, composed of 13 members, who shall serve three-year staggered terms, except that youth members may elect to serve one, two, or three year terms.

(b) *Definitions.*

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section only, shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

*Police Department:* The Golden Valley Police Department and all other departments of the City of Golden Valley that provide public safety or law enforcement services, but only to the extent those other departments provide public safety or law enforcement services. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Police Department does not include the Golden Valley Fire Department.

(c) *Term limits.* Commissioners may serve up to two consecutive three year terms. Partial terms shall not be counted toward this term limit. Former commissioners may be re-appointed for additional terms so long as they have not been on the commission during the twelve months prior to the effective date of any subsequent appointment.

(d) *Composition.* The Commission shall consist of:

(1) Three individuals that represent populations historically and presently harmed by policing.

(2) Two employees of the Police Department which shall include:

i. One licensed Peace Officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 626.84, subd. 1(c), that supervises other licensed Peace

Officers in the Police Department, such as a commander, sergeant, or the Chief; and

- ii. One Police Department employee (staff or licensed Peace Officer) in a non-supervisory role.

The two Police Department members shall be non-voting, ex officio members and shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum. If an ex officio member leaves City employment, their membership shall automatically terminate. In appointing ex officio members, the Council shall endeavor to include a variety of perspectives, experience, and roles.

- (3) At least one and no more than two youth, 21 years old or younger, who live, work, or attend school in the City of Golden Valley.
- (4) One individual with professional human resources or recruitment experience.
- (5) One individual or social service provider with knowledge or experience of mental health, substance use disorder, or homelessness.
- (6) One individual or caregiver with knowledge of or experience with the senior population in Golden Valley.
- (7) One parent, teacher, or administrator at a school that serves Golden Valley residents.
- (8) One individual who is a renter or lives in multi-family housing or group housing in Golden Valley.
- (9) At least one individual that has been impacted by the criminal justice system, for example, a criminal defendant or criminal defense attorney.

Except for the ex officio seats, if the City does not receive qualified applications from one or more of the above categories, the remaining seats may be filled with any qualified applicant with substantial ties to the City of Golden Valley.

In making appointments to the commission, the Council shall endeavor to maintain a membership that reflects the many different social identities represented in the City of Golden Valley, including but not limited to race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, marital status, status with regard to a public assistance program, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

(e) *Mission.* It shall be the PEACE Commission's mission to help the Golden Valley Police Department innovate and transform its provision of public safety services based on community input and needs, and to assure that the department provides inclusive, community-centered service. The Commission shall carry-out this mission by:

- (1) Establishing transparency and accountability to the public;
- (2) Enhancing communication and understanding between the Police Department, and the people it serves through community dialogue and engagement; and
- (3) Ensuring the Police Department applies practices that promote equity and inclusion and prioritize hiring and retaining officers with diverse backgrounds.

(f) *Duties and Responsibilities.* It is the duty of the PEACE Commission to advise and make recommendations to the Council on matters relating to and affecting policing in the City of Golden Valley for the purpose of furthering the Commission's mission. All of the Commission's work shall be performed pursuant to an annual work plan approved by the Council. Specifically the Commission may:

- (1) Conduct programs of research and study, in conjunction with the Police Chief and City Manager that analyze Police Department practices, internal controls, and compliance with applicable law and regulation relating to: police policy and procedure; community engagement and attitudes toward policing; training, recruitment and retention initiatives; and other matters related to the mission of the Commission. Research and study includes programs that collect, review, and audit summary data and compile aggregate statistics relating to the Commission's mission.
- (2) Present the results of programs of research and study on a periodic basis to the City Manager, Police Chief, or City Council for the purpose of ensuring Police Department operations are conducted in a lawful, effective, transparent, and nondiscriminatory manner.
- (3) Make recommendations to the City Council, City Manager, and Police Chief relating to internal controls, police policy and procedure; community engagement and attitudes toward policing; training, recruitment and retention initiatives; and other matters contained within a program of research and study.
- (4) Celebrate exemplary police work and highlight examples of positive contributions to public safety by community members.
- (5) Educate and learn from the community. Create and implement a community engagement and outreach program for the purpose of building trust and communication between the police and community members and facilitate community space in response to current events related to public

safety. Community engagement includes but is not limited to: community forums to facilitate discussions with community members about their experiences with the Golden Valley Police Department, programs to educate the community about policing, and informal relationship building activities.

- (6) Collaborate with the Community, City Manager, Human Resources Director, and Police Chief to develop and maintain equitable and inclusive recruitment and hiring processes.
- (7) In August of each year as part of its annual report, review and provide feedback to the City Council on:
  - i. The previous year's hiring data;
  - ii. The hiring and promotion processes employed by the department in the previous year;
  - iii. The Commission's previous year goals and how the goals were advanced;
  - iv. The Police Department's previous year goals and how the goals were advanced; and
  - v. The City's prosecution philosophy, data, and goals, and how the goals were advanced.

(g) *Minimum Training Requirements.* Within one year of appointment, all new members must complete the Golden Valley Citizen's Academy or similar training as arranged by the Police Chief.

(h) *Requirement of Cooperation by Police Department and All Other City Employees and Officials.* The PEACE Commission shall have full, free, and unrestricted access, to the extent authorized by law, to the records of the Police Department and prosecutor's office in order to facilitate research and study projects authorized in section (f)(1) herein and to conduct special reviews at the request of the City Council.

**Section 2.** This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication will follow as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council this 4th day of August, 2021.

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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk