

ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY AND ALL TRAINING TECHNIQUES

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council recognizes a need and the public’s desire for reforming the practices of the Memphis Police Department to ensure the safety and welfare of the people of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it is of paramount importance that the training of the Memphis Police Department reflects best practices to make certain that officers are adequately equipped uphold their duty to protect and serve, and to ensure the safety of all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the employment and training of officers is codified under Tennessee Code Annotated Title 38, Chapter 8; Part I of this Chapter provides that law enforcement agencies, including the Memphis Police Department, must provide training to its officers regarding de-escalation, the duty to intervene, and mental illness training; and

WHEREAS, the Jerry F. Agee Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy (TLETA), codified in Tennessee Code Annotated Section 38-8-201, was created for the purpose of training police and law enforcement officers in the methods of maintaining law enforcement services in state, municipal, county, and metropolitan jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Section 38-8-104 vests the authority to establish uniform standards and curriculum requirements for the employment and training of police recruits and police officers with the Commission, the composition of which is stipulated in Section 38-8-102(b)(1); this commission is required by statute to “Consult and cooperate with municipalities . . .” regarding the training of police recruits and police officers; thus, it is imperative the Memphis Police Department diligently review its training techniques and practices to adequately meet the current needs of the City of Memphis regarding its safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Memphis City Council to ensure that the training provided to current officers and those enrolled in the training academy is in accordance with state law and best practices by conducting a regular audit thereof, by an independent third party with adequate expertise on the subject matter, to determine whether such training techniques and procedures are aligned with best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE,

SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS that the provisions of the City Code relating to the Division of Police Services be hereby amended to add a new section that shall read as follows:

_____ Audit of the Memphis Police Department Training Practices

The Director of the City of Memphis Division of Police Services shall conduct an audit of the training techniques taught to police recruits and police officers **annually** to assess whether such

training is in accordance with Tennessee law and best practices. The audit shall be conducted by an independent third party to be selected by the Chief of Police and the Mayor, **and the contract to hire to be approved by the Memphis City Council**. Any recommendations and reports prepared as a result of the audit shall be presented to the Members of the Memphis City Council.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby severable. If any of these sections, provisions, sentences, clauses, phrases or parts is held unconstitutional or void, the remainder of this Ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date it shall have been passed by the Council, signed by the Chairperson of the Council, certified and delivered to the Office of the Mayor in writing by the Comptroller and become effective as otherwise provided by law.

Sponsor(s):
Chase Carlisle
JB Smiley, Jr.
J. Ford Canale

Chairman:
Martavius Jones