

## **THE PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**

**PURPOSE:** Subject to the powers, duties and limitations of Title VII, N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. 105-C:1 through 105-C:7, and the Portsmouth City Charter, the following establishes the role and authority of the Portsmouth Police Commission.

The role of the Portsmouth Police Commission is not to run the day-to-day operations of the police department. The role of this commission is to provide civilian oversight and ensure:

1. The Portsmouth Police Department operates in an ethical manner;
2. The goals and objectives of the department are accomplished;
3. The department is operating in a manner that is responsible to the taxpayer;
4. The Police Commission, Chief of Police and all Police Department employees are accountable to the citizens of Portsmouth.

### **AUTHORITY SUPPORTED BY STATUTE AND CITY CHARTER**

#### **101. Duties; Powers**

The Police Commission shall be the police making body for the Portsmouth Police Department. It shall be the duty of the police commissioners to appoint such police personnel, including police officers, staff, constables and superior officers, as they deem necessary and to fix such persons' compensation. The commissioners shall make and enforce all rules necessary for the operation of the police force in the manner most beneficial to the public interest. The Commission shall have authority to consider and act upon any complaint and/or employee grievance(s) brought to it through such procedures.

The commissioners may at any time discipline or remove police personnel for just cause and after a hearing satisfying the requirements of due process, which cause shall be specified in an order of discipline or removal except that special police officers appointed and designated as such shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and may be removed for other than just cause.

Appeals from such decisions shall be heard pursuant to such grievance procedures as shall be established by the Commissioners or as prescribed in respective collective bargaining agreements. The commission shall assume all administrative responsibilities, which would otherwise be vested in the City Manager under the city charter relating to the administration of the Department. Such powers are to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Determine the number, location and type of facilities and installations subject to final approval of the City Council.
- B. To determine the size of the work force and increase or decrease it's size subject to final approval of the City Council.

**102. Prohibition; Police in Office**

Any chief of police, police officer, constable, or superior officer in office on the date the commission has been duly established, shall be deemed to have been appointed by the commission, subject to the terms and conditions of his or her original appointment.

**103. Compensation**

Police commissioners shall serve without compensation except as authorized by the City Counsel for the purposes of indemnification and may be reimbursed for any expenses actually incurred in performance of their official duties.