

## ARTICLE IV. CIVIL SERVICE\*

-----  
\*Charter reference(s)--Mandate for civil service, Art. VI,  
§ 3.

\*Cross reference(s)--Commissions generally, § 2-31 et seq.

\*Cross reference(s)--32 M.R.S.A. § 7166 (Limitation on use  
of polygraph in employment)

\*Editor's Note--The Civil Service Ordinance was  
substantially reorganized and revised by Council Order No. 89-  
02/03, 11-4-02.

### DIVISION 2. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION\*

#### Sec. 2-47. Created.

There is hereby created a civil service commission, also referred to in this article as the commission. The commission shall consist of two separate and independent subcommittees as follows: the civil service employment subcommittee and the civil service police citizen review subcommittee. Commissioners shall be appointed to, and serve on, one of the two subcommittees only.

(Code 1968, § 201.3; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 288-90, 4-2-90; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

#### Sec. 2-48. Composition.

(a) The Civil Service Employment Subcommittee of the Civil Service Commission shall consist of three (3) commissioners and one (1) alternate who shall serve in the absence of any commissioner.

(b) The police citizen review subcommittee shall consist of six (6) commissioners and one (1) alternate who shall serve in the absence of any commissioner.

(Code 1968, § 201.3; Ord. No. 89-80 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

#### Sec. 2-49. Qualifications.

(a) *Qualifications of commissioners.* Every civil service commissioner and alternate shall be a resident of the City of Portland and shall be of good moral character. In addition, the following persons shall not be eligible for appointment to, or service on the Commission:

- (1) Any present or former employee of the city;
- (2) Any present or former member of the City Council; or
- (3) Any civil service commissioner who has completed two (2) consecutive full terms of three (3) years as provided in section 2-70 below.

(b) Additional subcommittee eligibility requirements:

- (1) *Employment subcommittee.* The following persons shall not be eligible to serve on the employment subcommittee:

any relative of a present member of the police or fire departments.

- (2) *Police Citizen Review Subcommittee.* In order to ensure an objective and unbiased audit of the police department's internal affairs investigation process, any applicant for service on the citizen review subcommittee shall be disqualified from serving on said subcommittee if:

- a. any member of the applicant's immediate family is or has been a Portland police officer;
- b. the applicant or any member of his or her immediate family has been arrested by any member of the Portland police department;
- c. the applicant or any member of his or her immediate family has filed a complaint with the internal affairs unit of the Portland police department alleging excessive force, civil rights violations or conduct on the part of a police officer that would constitute a criminal offense; and
- d. the applicant or any member of his or her immediate family has brought suit against the

Portland Chief of Police, the department or any individual police officer.

- e. "Immediate family" as used herein shall mean and include spouse, domestic partner, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, and siblings.

(c) Failure to disclose any grounds for disqualification or falsification of any information in the application process shall disqualify the person from service on the commission and shall constitute "cause" within the meaning of section 2-46.

(d) Any civil service commissioner or alternate who becomes ineligible to serve during his or her term shall resign, and failure to do so shall be "cause" within the meaning of section 2-46. A commissioner or alternate on the employment subcommittee who is a relative of any candidate for appointment under this article shall inform the secretary in writing of such relationship and shall not attend any meeting of the subcommittee dealing with such candidacy, nor participate in nor attempt to influence any action by the commission with respect to the position for which such relative has applied.

(e) Reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the appointments to the civil service commission are diverse and representative of the community.

(Code 1968, § 201.4; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299.86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 370-91, § 1, 6-5-91; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

## **Sec. 2-50. Appointment.**

Civil service commissioners and the alternates shall be appointed by the City Council. Such power of appointment shall be exercised only after the City Clerk has published a notice announcing such position or positions, describing the responsibilities thereof, and soliciting applications by qualified persons in a newspaper of general circulation within the city not less than fifteen (15) calendar days in advance of action by such council. Applications may be solicited whether or not there is a vacancy, and such applicants may be considered for any vacancy which occurs within one hundred eighty (180) days of the closing date for such applications. Such applicants may also be considered for appointment as a commissioner pro tem pursuant to section 2-74 below. Nothing herein shall limit the city's authority to solicit applications whenever the City Manager deems that it is necessary.

(Code 1968, § 201.4; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 138-92, § 3, 10-19-92; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97)

### **Sec. 2-51. Terms.**

(a) *Term.* Each civil service commissioner or alternate shall be appointed to a three-year term, unless appointed to fill a vacancy. Police citizen review subcommittee commissioners first appointed hereunder shall be appointed for one-, two- and three-year terms so that only two (2) are initially selected each year other than by reason of resignation, removal or death. A commissioner or alternate shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified, but in no case longer than one hundred twenty (120) days from the expiration of his or her term.

(b) *Limitation on service.* No person shall be appointed to, nor serve, more than two (2) consecutive full terms as a commissioner. Such limitation shall not include time served as an alternate; nor shall it include time served as a commissioner when appointed to fill a vacant partial term prior to appointment to a full term. Any person who completes two (2) consecutive full three (3) year terms of service shall not be eligible for appointment to either subcommittee of the commission until after three (3) consecutive calendar years from the date of completion of such maximum term.

(c) *Applicability.* The limitation on terms provided by this amendment shall apply to any person serving on the civil service commission as of the effective date of this amendment (7/5/1991) and to any person appointed after said effective date.

(Code 1968, § 201.3; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 275-83, 11-7-83; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 370-91, § 2, 6-5-91; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

### **Sec. 2-52. Compensation.**

Civil service commissioners shall serve without compensation, except that reasonable expenses incurred by any commissioner or alternate incidental to his or her duties under this article may be reimbursed.

(Code 1968, § 201.4; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97)

### **Sec. 2-53. Removal.**

Any civil service commissioner or alternate may be removed

from office by the City Council for cause, after notice and the opportunity to be heard.

(Code 1968, § 201.4; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

**Sec. 2-54. Officers.**

Each subcommittee of the civil service commission shall annually elect one (1) of its members as the chair. The Director of Human Resources or his or her designee shall serve as secretary to the employment subcommittee and shall furnish any necessary administrative assistance. The corporation counsel or his or her designee shall serve as secretary to the police citizen review subcommittee and shall furnish any necessary administrative assistance to that subcommittee.

(Code 1968, § 201.3; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 288-90, 4-2-90; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

**Sec. 2-55. Commissioners pro tem.**

In the case of temporary absence from the city, temporary disability of the civil service commission members and alternate, or other circumstances, so that a quorum of a subcommittee cannot be constituted without such action, the City Council may appoint such commissioners pro tem as may be necessary to constitute a quorum. Commissioners pro tem shall be subject to the eligibility requirements of this division. A commissioner pro tem shall possess the powers and discharge the duties of a regular commissioner during the absence or disability for which he or she has been appointed; provided, however, that a commissioner pro tem shall have no authority with respect to rule-making by the commission and shall not participate in any action or decision where a quorum is otherwise present.

(Code 1968, § 201.4; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97)

**Sec. 2-56. Meetings.**

(a) *Calling of meetings.* Meetings or hearings of either subcommittee of the Civil Service Commission may be called at any time by its Chair, or in the absence from the city or disability of the Chair, by any member of the Subcommittee. The Chair of a Subcommittee shall call a meeting upon request from any Subcommittee Commissioner.

(b) *Quorum.* A quorum of the Employment Subcommittee of the Civil Service Commission shall be two (2). The

Subcommittee Alternate may attend any hearing or meeting, but shall participate as a Commissioner only during the absence or disability of any Commissioner or whenever a vacancy on the Subcommittee exists.

A quorum of the Police Citizen Review Subcommittee shall be four (4). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the quorum shall be reduced to three (3) during any period when there is a vacancy on the Subcommittee, including a vacancy in the position of Alternate.

(Code 1968, § 201.5; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97; Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01; Ord. No. 247-03/04, 6-21-04)

**Sec. 2-57. Prohibited practices.**

(a) *Forfeiture of office.* A determination by a court of competent jurisdiction of a practice, or facts necessarily constituting a practice prohibited by this section by any civil service commissioner, alternate, member of a department, or any other person shall result in the forfeiture of any office held by such person and shall be a permanent disqualification for any office existing under or governed by this article.

(b) *Nondiscrimination.* No discrimination shall be exercised, promised, or threatened by any person, in connection with any action taken or to be taken under this article, in favor or against any applicant or member of a department because of his or her religious beliefs, ancestry, national origin or veteran's status; race, sex, sexual orientation, or color; because of age or physical or mental disability, except where such requirements constitute a bona fide occupational qualification or failure to meet the requirements poses a safety hazard or cannot be reasonably accommodated; because the applicant or member of the department, or member of his or her family, has or has declined to contribute to any political fund or to render political service; or because of any lawful union activity or membership. No person shall seek or attempt to use, nor shall the civil service commission give consideration to, any political endorsement, or any other factor prohibited by the preceding sentence. To the extent consistent with law and with this article, it is the policy of the city to encourage diversity in its work force and to use affirmative action in its recruitment of applicants for positions hereunder.

(c) *Falsification.* No person shall make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report with respect to any test, certification or appointment made under any provisions

of this article, or in any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of this article and the rules and the regulations adopted hereunder, or to cheat, or attempt to cheat, or abet cheating on any examination.

(d) *Bribery*. No person shall directly or indirectly give, render, pay, offer, solicit, or accept any money, service, or other valuable consideration for or on account of any appointment, proposed appointment, promotion, or proposed promotion to, or any advantage in a position, or in an examination for a position, in the departments.

(Code 1968, § 201.7; Ord. No. 89-80, 7-7-80; Ord. No. 299-86, 1-22-86; Ord. No. 288-90, 4-2-90; Ord. No. 239-91, § 1, 2-20-91; Ord. No. 117-95, 11-20-95; Ord. No. 184-97, 1-22-97)

**Cross reference(s)--Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.**

#### DIVISION 4. POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

##### **Sec. 2-76. Functions and duties.**

(a) *Duties*. The duties of the police citizen review subcommittee are as follows:

- (1) To determine whether police investigations into citizens' complaints against police officers are thorough, objective, fair and timely by auditing the police department's internal affairs' unit investigative methods and procedures;
- (2) To report in writing to the City Manager periodically, but no less than annually beginning in January 2003, as follows:
  - a. on the subcommittee's determination as to the thoroughness, objectivity, fairness and timeliness of the police internal affairs' investigation of citizen complaints against police officers;
  - b. a statistical analysis of all cases reviewed, including an analysis of trends and patterns of complaints or results of investigations of complaints; and
  - c. any recommendations and/or proposals for

improvements or modifications in the police internal affairs investigative process, policies or training, and for enhancing public confidence in the methods and process of investigation of citizen complaints against police officers.

- (3) To hold a public hearing at least annually to receive comments upon the police citizen complaint process.
- (4) Although it shall have access to individual internal affairs reports in order to review investigative methods and procedures, all reports of the subcommittee shall be done in such a manner that particular complainants, witnesses and officers are not personally identifiable.
- (5) Reports of the subcommittee shall be made available to the public to the extent consistent with the State Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S.A. Sec. 401 et.seq.
- (6) To make suitable procedural rules, from time to time, for the conduct of its duties. Proposed rules shall be submitted to the City Council and shall become effective only when approved by the City Council. All such rules shall be recorded in the office of the City Clerk.

(b) *Complaints to be reviewed.* Effective with complaints completed, as defined in subsection (3) immediately below, on or after January 1, 2002, the subcommittee shall review the internal affairs investigation of the following citizen complaints against police officers:

1. complaints alleging excessive force;
2. complaints alleging civil rights violations;
3. complaints alleging conduct that would constitute a criminal offense; and
4. any other complaint which the subcommittee deems necessary to review in order to carry out its duties hereunder.

In addition to the foregoing, the subcommittee shall review any complaint upon request of the complaining party, subject to the January 1, 2002 completion date.

(c) *Timing of review.* All subcommittee reviews of complaints shall take place only after final disciplinary action has been taken and all appeals exhausted or the case has been finally closed with no disciplinary action taken.

(d) *Scope of authority.* The subcommittee shall conduct its duties solely to determine the thoroughness, objectivity, fairness and timeliness of the police department's internal affairs' methods and procedures in regard to citizen complaints against police officers, and the subcommittee shall have no power or authority to subpoena or call witnesses nor to impose or modify any disciplinary action, or lack of action, against any police officer. The subcommittee shall make no recommendations nor offer any findings or comments relative to any disciplinary action, or lack of action, against any officer.

(e) *Training.* Prior to assuming their duties hereunder, subcommittee commissioners shall attend training by city staff as to the subcommittee's duties and responsibilities, applicable state and local law and regulations, issues relevant to the conduct of the citizen review function, accepted police practices and the department's internal affairs investigation process. Such training shall be provided by the city at no cost to the subcommittee members.

(f) *Resources.* To facilitate the effectiveness and objectivity of the police citizen review subcommittee, the city shall make available to the subcommittee the services of a technical advisor for the purposes of training; briefing the subcommittee on accepted police practices, applicable law and issues relevant to the discharge of the citizen review function; and educating the subcommittee on aspects of the internal investigation process. The advisor shall be retained by the City Manager after consultation with the Chief of Police, representatives of the police unions and the subcommittee chairperson. Any person who presently maintains any business or professional affiliation with the police department shall be disqualified from serving as technical advisor.

The city shall further make available all internal affairs investigation reports and police documents relevant to such investigations which are necessary for the subcommittee to conduct its duties hereunder. In no case shall the subcommittee have access to police officers' personnel records except to the extent that they are part of an internal affairs investigation report or are considered a public document under the state

Freedom of Access law.

(Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)

**Sec. 2-77. Confidentiality.**

Each member of the civil service commission is obligated to maintain the confidentiality of all information and documents either provided to or reviewed by them, in accordance with state law. Failure to maintain such confidentiality will be cause for removal from the commission. All reports and requests for disclosure of any information shall be referred to the corporation counsel for review prior to release.

(Substitute Ord. No. 83-01/02, § 3, 11-5-01)