

CHAPTER 13 POLICE COMMISSION

13.01 — MAYOR TO CONTROL POLICE: The Police Department of the City shall consist of the Mayor, a Chief of Police, and such other police officers and patrolmen as the City Council may from time to time determine.

The Mayor shall be the responsible head of the department and as such shall have the power to appoint all members of the force and suspend or remove them at will; provided, however, that the appointment, suspension and removal of all members of the police force, other than the Chief of Police, shall be subject to confirmation by the Police Commission or a majority of its members.

The Chief of Police, subject at all times to the orders of the Mayor, shall be in immediate control and supervision of all of the other police officers and shall be responsible for the faithful performance of their duties as well as his own.

13.02 — THE CREATION OF POLICE COMMISSION: There is hereby created and established in the City of Springfield a Police Commission.

13.03 — APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS, TERM OF OFFICE: The Commission shall consist of three members, each of whom shall be citizens and freeholders and qualified voters for five years prior to the date of their appointment.

Within thirty days after the charter goes into effect, the City Charter Commission shall submit the names of four resident citizens qualified for membership on the Police Commission, to the City Council of the City of Springfield for its confirmation and approval. The City Council must select three names from the four so submitted.

13.04 — VACANCY, DEATH, RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL: In the case of vacancy on the Police Commission, caused by the death or resignation of a member of the Police Commission, or by reason of any other cause, such vacancy shall be filled in the following manner:

The City Charter Commission shall submit the name of one qualified person to the City Council for each vacancy, and if the City Council rejects the person whose name is so submitted, then the Charter Commission shall submit the name of one other person, and that person must then be accepted by the City Council and be appointed to membership on the Police Commission to fill such vacancy.

The selection, approval or rejection of persons whose names are submitted by the Charter Commission to the City Council for appointment to the Police Commission, as hereinbefore provided; shall be by the majority vote of the entire City Council, and the Mayor shall not vote in the selection, approval, or rejection by the City Council of the persons whose names are so submitted to the City Council.

13.05 — TERM OF OFFICE: When the first appointments are made, one member on the Police Commission shall be appointed for a term of one year; one member shall be appointed for a term of two years; one member shall be appointed for a term of three years; and thereafter, the terms of each member on the Police Commission shall be for three years, but staggered as hereinbefore provided. Each member shall hold office until his successor is appointed and has qualified. Each member of the Police Commission shall file his oath of office, but need not be required to file a bond for the faithful performance of his duties. Appointees, in case of death, vacancy, resignation or removal, shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor. The Mayor of the City, members of the City Council and members of the Charter Commission, shall not be eligible for membership on the Police Commission.

13.06 — REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSION: Any member of the Commission may be removed from his office by a four-fifths vote of the entire City Council, but no such member shall be removed except for cause and until he has had furnished to him a written statement of the charges against him, and has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard in his defense.

13.07 — COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS: Members of the Police Commission shall serve without compensation.

13.08 — POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION: The Police Commission shall have the power and duty to confirm or disapprove all appointments, suspensions and removals of members of the police force, except the Chief of Police and special policemen, but shall exercise no other control over the police department or its members. The Commission in its discretion may require the filing of a formal charge against any policeman sought to be suspended or removed by the Mayor and may direct a hearing thereon with an opportunity to be heard.

13.09 — QUALIFICATIONS (MEMBER POLICE DEPARTMENT): No person shall be eligible to appointment in the Police Department who is not a citizen of the United States. The Chief of Police must become a resident of the City of Springfield within 60 days after his appointment to the office.

13.10 — DUTIES: The duties of all police officers shall be such as the law of the state and the ordinances of the city may prescribe for the preservation of the public peace, the prevention and detection of crime, the arrest of offenders, the protection of the rights of persons and property the enforcement of laws of the State and the ordinances and regulations of the city, and the custody and care of prisoners held in the city jail during the pendency of hearings or trials in the city courts.

13.11 — SPECIAL POLICE: The Mayor may, in case of riot, large public gatherings, or disturbances, appoint such special or temporary police officers as he may deem necessary but, such special or temporary appointments shall not continue in effect for more than one week without the consent of the City Council.

13.12 — POLICE FOR DESIGNATED PLACES: The Mayor may also at the request of any person, firm, society, organization, or corporation appoint policemen or watchmen who shall serve without expense to the City, and have police powers to preserve the peace and protect property within such limits and at such places as may be designated in such appointment, but such policemen or watchmen shall exercise no authority, nor wear any badge of office, outside the limits named in such appointment.

13.13 — COMPENSATIONS: The salaries or compensation of the Chief and all regular and special police officers and patrolmen shall be fixed by the Mayor, by and with approval of the City Council.