

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON CODE REGARDING
THE POLICE COMMAND STRUCTURE TO AUTHORIZE
A SECOND DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Washington has the authority to adopt ordinances and to promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Police Department (“Department”) has historically operated with a single deputy chief overseeing operations, administration, investigations, training, and technology for the Department; and

WHEREAS, the long-term technology improvement, administrative modernization, and supervisory development required to ensure the Department meets rising expectations for technology, data, and procedural justice, while maintaining readiness and public trust, require more executive capacity than the current command structure can provide; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate the changing needs of the Department, the Police Chief has recommended adding a second deputy police chief within the Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the addition of a second deputy police chief will increase efficiency, reduce exposure, provide stronger supervisory performance, and improve service quality resulting from enhanced executive leadership; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Washington has determined that it is necessary, expedient, and in the best interests of the City and its citizens to add a second deputy police chief within the Department, as set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS HOME RULE POWERS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated as findings of fact as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Section 32-21 (“Police officer ranks within the department”) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions are indicated by **bold underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Sec. 32-21. - Police officer ranks within the department.

The ranks of the commissioned police officers in the department, in descending order, shall be:

- (1) ~~(a)~~ Police chief, who shall be the commanding officer of the police department;
- (2) ~~(b)~~ Deputy police chief, or deputy police chiefs (up to two), each of whom shall assume responsibility for providing department-wide leadership and direction within the portfolio assigned by the chief of police; ~~who will serve as the operational manager of the city police department and assume responsibility for providing department wide leadership and direction;~~
- (3) ~~(c)~~ Sergeant, whose duties shall include general management and supervisory responsibility and authority; and
- (4) ~~(d)~~ Patrol officer.

Section 3. Section 32-23 (“Deputy Chief of Police”) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions are indicated by **bold underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Sec. 32-23. - Deputy chief of police.

- (a) *Rank within the department.* ~~The~~ **Each** deputy police chief shall be subordinate in rank to the police chief and superior in rank to the sergeant and patrol officer.
- (b) **Positions authorized; Discretionary Appointment. The chief of police is authorized, in the chief’s sole discretion, to appoint one (1) or both of the following deputy chief positions within the police department:**
 - 1. **Deputy Chief of Administration, Technology, Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives; and**
 - 2. **Deputy Chief of Operational Oversight, Field Services, and Professional Standards.**

The chief of police may leave either position vacant, may fill either position at any time, and may assign, reassign, or modify portfolio responsibilities consistent with the needs of the department.

~~The deputy police chief shall be appointed by, and serve at the sole direction and pleasure of, the police chief. An individual appointed to the position of deputy police chief shall have no property rights in the appointment, shall serve in the position of deputy police chief on an at will basis, and shall not be under or subject to the authority of the board of police commissioners. Further, the police chief shall have the authority to discipline the deputy police chief.~~

- (c) **Appointment. Each deputy chief of police shall be appointed by, and serve at the sole direction and pleasure of, the chief of police. An individual appointed to any deputy chief position shall have no property rights in the appointment, shall serve in that position on an at-will basis, and shall not be under or subject to the authority of the board of police commissioners. Further, the chief of police shall have the authority to discipline each deputy chief of police.**

~~(c)~~ **(d) Vacancies.** Upon ~~the a~~ vacancy in ~~the any position of~~ deputy police chief **position authorized by this section**, the police chief shall in the same's sole discretion fill the position with a qualified candidate from within the city police department. In the event there are no qualified candidates from within the city police department, the police chief may recommend to the police supervisor selection committee that an individual from outside the police department, who possesses prior supervisory or command experience in law enforcement or the military, be appointed a sergeant in accordance with section 32-24. Upon the appointment of the individual from outside the department to the position of sergeant in the police department by the police supervisor selection committee, the police chief shall thereafter appoint the individual to the rank of deputy police chief. The police chief shall also perform all other legal requirements to be satisfied to employ the person selected to fill the position of deputy police chief.

~~(d)~~ **(e) Removal.** The police chief has the authority to remove any deputy police chief in the same's sole discretion. If it is determined by the police chief that it is necessary or desirable to remove a person from the position of deputy police chief, the police chief shall return the person so removed to the rank/position held by such person in the police department prior to being appointed deputy police chief.

- (1) Any individual who was a patrol officer in the police department immediately prior to appointment to the position of deputy police chief shall, upon removal from the position of deputy police chief, automatically return to the rank of patrol officer together with all authority, responsibility and compensation commensurate with such prior rank. The board of police commissioners shall retain jurisdiction to discipline greater than five days or discharge those individuals removed from the rank deputy police chief and returned to the rank of patrol officer by the police chief.
- (2) Except only as expressly provided in subsection ~~(d)~~(3) of this section, any individual who was a sergeant in the police department by appointment of the police supervisor selection committee prior to appointment to the position of deputy police chief shall, upon removal from the position of deputy police chief, automatically return to the rank of sergeant. In accordance with section 32-24, the police supervisor selection committee shall have the discretion and authority to discipline those individuals it had previously appointed to sergeant and who were subsequently returned to the rank of sergeant following removal from the rank of deputy police chief by the police chief, as well as the discretion and authority to remove the individuals from the rank of sergeant.
- (3) Any individual who had been promoted to sergeant by the board of police commissioners prior to being appointed to the position of deputy police chief shall, upon removal from the position of deputy police chief, automatically return to the rank of sergeant with all authority, responsibility and compensation commensurate with such prior rank. The board of police commissioners shall retain jurisdiction over the demotion, discipline greater than five days, and discharge of any individual it had previously promoted

to sergeant, and who was subsequently returned to the rank of sergeant following removal from the rank of deputy police chief by the police chief.

~~(e)~~ **(f) Duties and responsibilities.** ~~The~~ **Each** deputy police chief shall be responsible for the supervision of all subordinate personnel **assigned by the chief of police** and shall perform any and all duties and responsibilities as assigned by the police chief, **including the duties and responsibilities consistent with the portfolio of the position identified in subsection (b) above.** In the absence of the police chief, the deputy police chief **designated by the chief of police** shall be responsible for the overall operation of the city police department during such absence. **If no deputy chief has been expressly designated for such absence, command authority shall follow the department's established chain of command, and where two deputy chiefs of equal rank are eligible to assume command, the deputy chief with greater time in grade shall assume command.**

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby ordered to be published in pamphlet form by the City Clerk and said Clerk is ordered to keep at least three (3) copies hereof available for public inspection in the future and in accordance with the Illinois Municipal Code.

Section 5. This Ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances on the subject and shall be construed therewith except as to that part in direct conflict with any other ordinance, and in the event of such conflict, the provisions hereof shall govern.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in the manner provided by law.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,
TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN REGULAR AND PUBLIC SESSION THIS ____
DAY OF _____, 2026.**

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk