



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Chris Ortega, Chief of Police

**PREPARER:** Chris Ortega, Chief of Police

**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**TITLE:** Introduce Ordinance No. 1584, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Repealing Article 12 (Public Safety Committee) in Chapter 3 (Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces) of Title II (Administration), of the Arcata Municipal Code.

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Introduce Ordinance No. 1584, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Repealing Article 12 (Public Safety Committee) in Chapter 3 (Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces) of Title II (Administration), of the Arcata Municipal Code; and
- 2) Waive reading of the text and consent to read by title only.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The City is making administrative changes to the Arcata Municipal Code through this Ordinance. The Ordinance will repeal Article 12, Public Safety Committee, within Chapter 3 of Title II. This action is intended to streamline the City's advisory body structure and align public safety policy discussion and oversight directly with the City Council and City Manager.

Public safety topics are addressed through multiple channels, including City Council meetings, public engagement, and ongoing coordination among the Police Department, City Manager, and senior City staff. The City Council receives public input and establishes policy direction through noticed public meetings. City staff, including the Chief of Police, City Manager, and senior city staff, regularly engage with community members and stakeholder groups to inform operational and strategic priorities. Policy direction is developed through this collaborative process and implemented by the City Manager through departmental leadership, including the Police Department.

Council may introduce Ordinance No. 1584 at this meeting and adopt it at the next regular scheduled meeting.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Public Safety Committee was established to provide a forum for discussion and review of public safety matters and to make recommendations to the City Council.

In recent years, interest and participation in the Public Safety Committee has declined. Despite efforts to recruit members, including advertising vacancies and conducting outreach, several positions have remained unfilled for extended periods. As a result, the Public Safety Committee has

experienced ongoing challenges maintaining full membership, achieving quorum, and sustaining continuity in its work.

During the same period, public safety issues have increasingly been addressed through regular City Council meetings, study sessions, strategic planning processes, and ongoing coordination among the Police Department, City Manager, and senior City staff, as well as through community engagement efforts. These established channels provide consistent opportunities for public input, interdepartmental coordination, and policy development.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Council should consider public comments and then introduce the ordinance and continue the matter to their next meeting for adoption.

If adopted, the Public Safety Committee will be dissolved and future public safety policy discussion, program review, and strategic planning will occur through regular and special meetings of the City Council, as well as ongoing coordination among the Police Department, City Manager, and senior City staff. This approach:

- Addresses ongoing vacancies and declining participation that have limited the Committee's effectiveness;
- Reflects the City's current model of public safety engagement through Council meetings, staff coordination, and community interaction;
- Reduces administrative workload related to meeting preparation, staffing, and coordination; and
- Ensures that policy direction is established by the City Council and implemented through the City Manager in coordination with the Police Department.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Repeal of the Public Safety Committee represents a structural change to how public safety policy matters are reviewed and considered. Public safety issues, strategic priorities, and program direction will be addressed through City Council meetings and through ongoing coordination among the Police Department, City Manager, and senior City staff, rather than through a standing advisory committee.

This approach reflects current practice, in which public safety matters are informed by public input received at Council meetings, engagement between staff and community members, and coordination across City departments. It reinforces the Council's role in setting policy direction in public meetings and the City Manager's role in implementing that direction through departmental leadership.

This action does not change the City's operational public safety services, policies, or service levels. It modifies only the advisory structure through which policy discussions are conducted.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

This ordinance makes administrative amendments to the Arcata Municipal Code that will not cause a physical change to the environment. Consequently, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that enactment of this ordinance will have a significant impact on the environment and this action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), common sense exemption.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

None. Repeal of the Committee may result in minor administrative savings related to staff time and meeting support.

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:**

1. Open the Public Hearing.
2. Receive the staff report and review questions with staff.
3. Open public comment.
4. Close public comment and close the Public Hearing.
5. Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1584, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Repealing Article 12 (Public Safety Committee) in Chapter 3 (Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces) of Title II (Administration), of the Arcata Municipal Code; waive reading of the text and consent to read by title only.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Ordinance 1584 Public Safety Committee Repeal (DOCX)