



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

For Release: March 24, 2017

Tecklenburg Asks Council to Consider Creation of New Public Safety Department

Charleston, S.C.—Next week, Mayor John J. Tecklenburg will ask members of the Public Safety Committee of Charleston City Council to study the feasibility of creating a Department of Public Safety for the city of Charleston. The new department would provide a unified strategic vision and administrative structure for the city's Police, Fire and Emergency Services divisions, while maintaining each as a distinct, specialized force with its own chief, training and command structure.

"More than a hundred municipalities around the country are currently using this model to make their cities and their citizens safer," Tecklenburg said. "That's why I'm asking Council to study this change, and to consider adopting it in the months ahead.

"At the same time, I will be asking Council to resolve that any and all savings that might result from these suggested changes be reinvested dollar for dollar in the men and women who work every day to keep our city safe -- the skilled and dedicated first responders of Charleston, SC."

Recent research has shown this model to be successful in cities small and large, including Kalamazoo, MI, Canton, MI, Sunnyvale, CA and Montgomery, AL. Cities have found that when there is collaboration and a strong partnership between police, fire and emergency management personnel, public safety is elevated to a more prominent function, and they are able to provide a full range of services with greater efficiency.

If Council approves the change, Tecklenburg said that he has asked Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen to consider serving as the city's first Director of Public Safety.

"For the past eleven years, Chief Mullen has served our city with distinction, reducing crime while creating innovative, nationally-recognized community partnerships like the Illumination Project. I cannot imagine a better person for the job."

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