

## **Executive Order No. 2015-17**

**WHEREAS**, recent events in South Carolina and elsewhere in the nation have placed a renewed focus on fostering better relationships between law enforcement officers and the public, highlighting the need for government to continuously be responsive to the people it services; and

**WHEREAS**, state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers in South Carolina must balance their duty to carry out government's responsibility to protect public safety, reduce crime, and maintain the public's trust; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to emphasize that the law enforcement profession embodies true and ultimate service to the people, with officers willingly placing their lives in peril to protect citizen and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, for a police force to be effective, it is imperative that law enforcement officers have the trust and confidence of the people to enforce the law with integrity, fairness, and control; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to improve relations between law enforcement agencies and communities, this Administration can bring together state and local law enforcement professionals to develop strategies and identify best practices to benefit all state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies and, thereby, the people they serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the power conferred upon me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the South Carolina Commission on the Advancement of Public Safety (hereinafter, "Commission"), which shall be constituted and shall execute its duties and responsibilities as follows:

### **Mission:**

To identify best practices and make recommendations, consistent with applicable law, on how policing practices at the state, county, and municipal levels can promote effective crime reduction while building and maintaining trust in communities.

### **Membership:**

The Commission shall be composed of 10 members appointed by the Governor:

- (1) Chief of the State Law Enforcement Division, Chairman;
- (2) Director of the Department of Public Safety;
- (3) Director of the Criminal Justice Academy;
- (4) Director of the Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services;
- (5) A sheriff or representative from a county law enforcement agency with more than 300 sworn officers;
- (6) A sheriff or representative from a county law enforcement agency with less than 200 sworn officers;
- (7) A representative from a county law enforcement agency with 200 or more officers;
- (8) A representative from a municipal police department with more than 100 sworn officers;
- (9) A representative from a municipal police department with less than 100 sworn officers;
- (10) A retired law enforcement officer.

The Governor shall designate as co-chairmen the Chief of the State Law Enforcement Division and the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Administrative support shall be provided by the State Law Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Safety.

**Objectives:**

- (1) Community Relations: To recommend practices and programs that can help develop and maintain relationships with various groups and neighborhoods in the jurisdictions across the state.
- (2) Hiring Practices: To recommend and update key components for a thorough hiring process in an effort to recruit, screen, and select the highest quality candidates available.
- (3) Officer Training: To review basic training and in-service training programs to identify and recommend concepts to enhance law enforcement operations in an ever-changing environment.
- (4) Wellness Issues: To identify programs and practices that will assist law enforcement in managing the stresses inherently present in the profession and in identifying those officers who need assistance.
- (5) Studies and Research: To identify and review recent case studies and research issues regarding officer use of force and recommend possible changes in policies and procedures.

**Reports:** The Commission shall present an Interim Report to the Governor no later than December 31, 2015. The Commission shall issue the final report to the Governor no later than March 31, 2016.

This order shall take effect immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA, THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2015.**

**NIKKI R. HALEY  
Governor**