

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2023-0005

Sponsored by: Councilmember Kelly	An Ordinance renumbering Section 202.07 of the Cuyahoga County Code to 204.02 and to clarify the duties of the County Sheriff's Department and the County Sheriff; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
Co-sponsored by: Councilmember Gallagher	

WHEREAS, the voters of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, overwhelming approved a Charter Amendment to the Cuyahoga County Charter in 2019 regarding the Cuyahoga County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Amendment in 2019 regarding the County Sheriff reflected the desire of the voters of Cuyahoga County to have a more independent Sheriff than had previously existed under the Cuyahoga County Charter; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, County Council passed O2013-0015 enacting Section 202.07 ("Sheriff's Department") of the Cuyahoga County Code, but did not update the language of the Cuyahoga County Code to reflect the amendments set forth in the 2019 Charter amendment; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is necessary in order to align the language in the Cuyahoga County Code with the County Charter to provide clarity regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective to clarify the duties of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Section 202.07 of the Cuyahoga Code is hereby renumbered to 204.02 and said section of the Cuyahoga County Code is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are bold and underlined and deletions are stricken):

Section ~~202.07~~204.02: County Sheriff; Sheriff's Department

A. The County Sheriff is hereby appointed to fulfill all duties and obligations required by general law, the County Charter and County Law.

B. The County Sheriff shall issue quarterly reports to the County Executive and County Council on the operation of the Sheriff's Department and shall provide additional information upon request of the Executive or the Council.

~~A.~~ **C.** The Sheriff's Department is hereby established; **under the direction of the County Sheriff. The County Sheriff** and it shall be its own **an** appointing authority pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

1. ~~The Sheriff's Department shall be under the direction of the County Sheriff. The Sheriff's Department and its employees shall aid and assist the County Sheriff in carrying out the powers, duties, and responsibilities that are assigned to the Sheriff by the general law, the County Charter, and by County law.~~

2. ~~With the approval of the County Executive, the~~ **The** Sheriff shall employ and supervise such number of deputies, assistants, and employees as are reasonably necessary to carry out the Department's functions **subject to appropriations in the biennial budget approved by the Council.** ~~All employees assigned to the County Sheriff are hereby assigned to the Sheriff's Department.~~

a) In employing the necessary deputies, assistants, and employees, the County Sheriff shall comply with the County Employment Practices as established under Article IX of the County Charter, including Title 2 of the County Code, as same may be amended from time to time.

~~a)~~ **b)** Nothing in the Cuyahoga County Code is intended to limit the ability of ~~the County Executive and~~ the County Sheriff to abolish positions for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of operations or for any other reason permitted by general law or County law.

D. The Sheriff shall comply with the County purchasing practices established under Article X of the County Charter, including Title 5 of the County Code, as same may be amended from time to time.

~~B.~~ **E.** The Sheriff's Department shall include, but is not limited to, the following divisions:

1. Division of Civil Court Orders whose responsibility shall be to carry out court orders.
2. Division of Corrections whose responsibility shall be the administration and operation of the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center;
3. Division of Law Enforcement whose responsibility shall be the law enforcement duties of county sheriffs.

4. Division of Protective Services whose responsibility shall be the provision of security services for county offices and buildings where the County Sheriff determines that such services should be provided using County personnel. Protective Services Officers shall be considered County security personnel who are not law enforcement officers. The Sheriff shall determine the training necessary for the certification of Protective Services Officers. Such training shall, at a minimum, include satisfactory completion of programs that have been approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission designed to qualify persons for positions as security guards.

F. The Sheriff Department's budget shall be submitted as part of the Executive's biennial budget process in accordance with Section 701.01 of the Cuyahoga Code, as same may be amended from time to time. Nothing contained herein shall be constructed to prohibit the Sheriff from transmitting to the Council supplemental budget requests, which shall be reviewed and considered in the budgetary process.

~~E.~~ **G.** Authority to Carry Weapons:

1. Employees of the Sheriff's Department who are authorized to carry weapons pursuant to general law shall comply with all state and federal laws governing certification and re-certification necessary to carry weapons.
2. Where general law does not govern the certification and re-certification of employees to carry weapons, the following provisions shall apply:
 - a. The Sheriff may issue firearms, other intermediate weapons (e.g., pepper spray), and/or hard controls (e.g., handcuffs) to any employees in the Sheriff's Department who are specifically pre-authorized by the Sheriff and are designated in the Department's written policies and procedures. The Sheriff shall have the power to commission employees in the Sheriff's Department to carry firearms if the employee has successfully completed the firearms training and requalification programs that are required by law for Deputy Sheriffs. The Sheriff may permit employees to carry intermediate weapons and hard controls if the employee has successfully completed required training as determined by the Sheriff.
3. The Sheriff shall ensure that the Department's continuum of force policy applies to all employees who carry weapons. All employees who carry weapons shall properly secure firearms or other weapons, while on duty and off as required by the Sheriff.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall

