



Office of the Mayor
City of Columbus
Ohio

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2020-06

By: ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

Independent Investigations: An order mandating independent, professional, unbiased and prompt investigations of police use of force resulting in serious injury or death

WHEREAS, repeated and highly publicized incidents of police use of force, and the apparent lack of accountability when police use of force policies are violated, has fostered a perception that police use of force is unchecked, unlawful, and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, a variety of national commissions and professional bodies, including President Obama's Taskforce on 21st Century Policing, recognized using an independent process to investigate police use of force may help instill trust and increase the legitimacy of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing called for policies that mandate external and independent criminal investigations in cases of police use of force resulting in death, officer-involved shootings resulting in injury or death, or in-custody deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations included recommendations from multiple member agencies to use an independent special investigation unit to ensure police use of deadly force cases are investigated in an unbiased and proper manner; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission offered multiple recommendations intended to increase transparency, build trust and enhance the legitimacy of investigations into police use of force, including but not limited to, officer use of force resulting in death, officer involved shootings, in-custody injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Columbus, Department of Public Safety to assure that an independent, professional, unbiased and prompt investigation is performed whenever law enforcement officers are involved in the use of force resulting in serious injury or death; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, in certain circumstances, provides such investigative services to local law enforcement agencies;

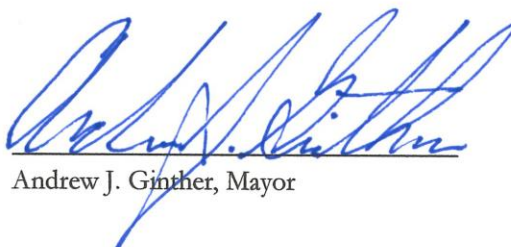
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor of the City of Columbus, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Ohio Constitution, the Charter of the City of Columbus and the Columbus City Code do hereby declare independent, professional, unbiased and prompt investigations of use of force resulting in serious injury or death by members of the Columbus Division of Police shall henceforth be referred to the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation for criminal investigation in accordance with Revised Code Sec. 109.54. In furtherance of this declaration, I hereby direct the following:

1. That the Chief of Police cause the Division of Police Directives to be amended to comport with this order and implement said changes within 30 days.
2. Should an incident occur that meets the criteria established in this order prior to implementation of changes in said Directives, the Chief of Police shall refer such matter to BCI as per RC 109.54.
3. That the Director of Public Safety immediately seek to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BCI detailing the process by which such investigations shall be conducted.

This order shall be in full force and effect after my signature is affixed to this document.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, to be hereto affixed this 17th day of June, 2020.


Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor