

NOTICE OF VETO

As Mayor of the City of Brookhaven, MS I submit this VETO of the action taken at a legally called meeting of the Board of Aldermen on December 3, 2024, where a vote was taken to change the existing ordinance and thereby revert the Office of City Chief of Police from that of an appointed office to one that is elected and submit the following declarations and objections, within the time period allowed under law, to the Brookhaven City Clerk for inclusion in the record for submission and dissemination to the Board of Aldermen.

This matter has been debated and resolved numerous times by the Board.

MS law allows the Board to designate the City Police Chief be appointed and not elected. Here, any person within the city that desires to serve in that position may apply if the position is appointed along with talented individuals that may not be city residents. The city will be allowed to hire the best candidate for the position. To do otherwise limits our vibrant and growing city from employment tools that other cities our size within the state have available to them and successfully utilized.

MS law also allows the Board to appoint other positions of departmental leadership and they have historically continued to follow this state law by making those appointments.

The Board has taken positive independent action to institute policies and procedures for the police department in order to ensure compliance with state and federal law.

The Board has further instituted sweeping changes in the police department by providing a pay scale that is competitive with other governments in order to ensure personnel are compensated for their duties related to their job classification and rank within the department.


The Board has taken positive steps to acquire body and automobile cameras, radar, computers, updated data and technical equipment and personal protective gear for officers within the police department.

The Board has joined with Lincoln County to provide a modernized 911 call system for first responders to better serve and protect the public.

The Board has taken their initiative to make positive changes for our police department.

All city departments leadership should be under the purview of the Board of Aldermen.

For the above described reasons I respectfully submit my objections to the proposed ordinance and therefore VETO the matter, this the 5th day of December, 2024.



Joe Cox, Mayor
City of Brookhaven, MS