

**FIRST READING: October 7, 2025**  
**SECOND READING/ADOPTION: November 4, 2025**

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND**  
Ordinance No. 04- 2025

Introduced by the Mayor & City Council

**Amending the Code of the City of Mount Rainer,  
to repeal Chapter 4, “Boards, Committees, and Commissions”, Article  
III, “Police Review and Advisory Board” as no longer necessary for  
the protection of the public and an inefficient use of City resources.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to §5-202 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Council of the City of Mount Rainer (“the City”) has the authority to adopt such ordinances as it deems necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 5-202 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland (the “City Council”) has the authority to pass such ordinances as it deems necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, protect and preserve the municipality’s rights, property, and privileges, preserve peace and good order, secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, during a period of heightened reckoning with a history of oppression of people of color, which included a recognition of historic patterns of abuse at the hands of public institutions, including law enforcement agencies, the City enacted Ordinance No. 08-2020, creating a Police Review and Advisory Board (“the Board”) to support the City’s efforts to ensure that all members of the public be treated fairly and courteously by its law enforcement officers to the maximum extent practical consistent with the department’s law enforcement mission; and

WHEREAS, the original mission of the Board was to review the operations of the City’s police department with respect to its treatment of members of the public in connection with the pursuit of its mission and to investigate allegations of mistreatment and misconduct, and

Whereas, the creation of the City board demonstrated to state and county officials the importance of police accountability to our residents, further pushing the need for change; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the adoption of Chapter 4, Title 3, the State legislature enacted the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, repealing the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights and implementing certain police reform measures, including strengthened protections for members of the public complaining of police misconduct and mistreatment and, among other things, created Police Accountability Boards in each County; and

WHEREAS, the Police Accountability Act preempted the City’s authority with respect to the Board in many respects, requiring the City to modify substantially the Board’s mission; and

WHEREAS, the City enacted emergency ordinance 05-2022 in order to ensure that the board complied with the limitations that stemmed from the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City council expresses its appreciation to members of the board for their volunteer service; and

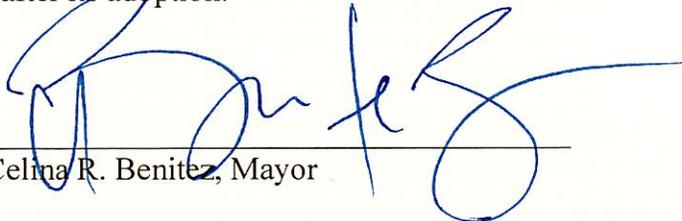
WHEREAS, in the intervening years, it has become apparent that the Board no longer serves the intended purpose as envisioned in 2020 and the City Council has determined that its resources can better be used in other ways to support the public interest in a safe, secure, and civil society.

**Section 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, by the Council of the City of Mount Rainier, that City Code, Chapter 4, “Boards, Committees, and Commissions”, Article III, “Police Review and Advisory Board”, shall be and hereby is repealed in its entirety.

**Section 2. BE IF FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Mount Rainier that, this ordinance is adopted by the Council of the City of Mount Rainier this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025 and shall take effect on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025, provided that a fair summary has been read at the meeting at which it is introduced and adopted, that a copy shall be posted at City Hall for at least two weeks after it becomes effective, and that a fair summary is published at least once in a newspaper having general circulation in the City, inclusive of the City's newsletter mailed or otherwise delivered to every City household, and further provided that the Mayor and Council shall hold a public hearing on the ordinance at a meeting held not less than fourteen (14) days nor more than forty-five (45) days after its adoption.

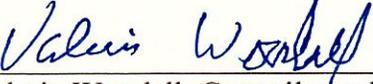
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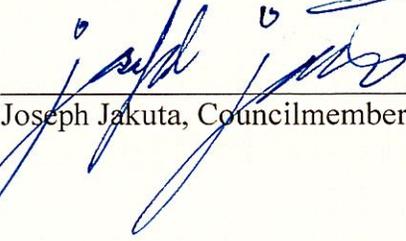
MSam  
Melissa Sam, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Celina R. Benitez, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Carter, Councilmember Ward 1

  
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Jennifer Hoffpauir, Councilmember Ward 1

  
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Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2

  
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Joseph Jakuta, Councilmember Ward 2