

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-043

Establishing a Parental Accountability and Family Support Partnership

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia recognizes that strong parental engagement and accountability are critical in promoting youth success, public safety, and overall public welfare; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia acknowledges that early intervention, education, and coordinated support for families can reduce juvenile involvement with the criminal justice system, truancy, and repeat offenses; and,

WHEREAS, the Solicitor's Office plays a vital role in the fair administration of justice to our youth by and through diversion efforts and community-based solutions, while offering support and resources to families; and,

WHEREAS, the collaboration between municipal departments, the Solicitor's Office, schools, service providers, and community partners strengthen these outcomes by addressing the underlying causes of juvenile misconduct and familial challenges and hardships; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia seeks to formalize a partnership that promotes shared responsibility among parents, legal guardians, youth, and the justice system while prioritizing education, prevention, and rehabilitation measures when appropriate; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 19th day of May, 2026, that:

1. This resolution establishes the City of Columbia, the Columbia Police Department, and the Richland County Solicitor's Office mutual interest in promoting parental engagement, responsibility, and accountability in matters involving youth behavior and minor offenses.
2. This resolution establishes the City of Columbia, the Columbia Police Department, and the Richland County Solicitor's Office shall focus on connecting parents and families to available community resources, services, and educational opportunities and the support of diversion, education and intervention programs when appropriate.
3. The services may include joint workshops, informational sessions, referrals to various service providers, parental education programs, and other collaborative efforts deemed appropriate by the participating entities.
4. Nothing withstanding in this Resolution shall alter or limit the authority of the Solicitor's Office, law enforcement, or the judiciary. But shall merely serve as a participatory initiative conducted to provide access and availability to resources and service providers.
5. Upon approval, this Resolution shall be disseminated to the Richland County Clerk of Court, City of Columbia Municipal Court Clerk of Court, Richland County Public Defender, and other stakeholder law enforcement agencies to so as to memorialize the parties' intent and apply it when appropriate.

Requested by:

Councilman Bailey

Approved by:

Cheresia B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

[Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:

Erika D. Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 05/19/2026

Final Reading: 05/19/2026