

1979 WL 43120 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

October 17, 1979

\*1 Lt. A. R. McAllister  
Uniform Patrol Division  
Greer City Police Department  
101 W. Poinsett Street  
Greer, South Carolina 29851

Dear Lt. McAllister:

Attorney General McLeod has referred your recent letter to me for reply. You have asked whether the administrator or police, fire and emergency medical departments of a city may be called 'Chief of Police' or whether it must be called 'Public Safety Director.' This appears to be a decision which is within the discretion of the governing body of the particular city. There would appear, however, to be no reason why a commissioned police officer could not serve in the position of Public Safety Director.

Your second question is whether the director of a combined police, fire and emergency medical department may be a member of the South Carolina Police Officer's Retirement System. [Section 9-11-10\(6\), 1976 Code](#) of Laws, provides that in order to be eligible for membership in that retirement system, the person must be required 'to give his time to the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property and the detection of crimes in the State.' Since one of the functions of the person who holds the position in question would appear to be the administration of the police department, there would appear to be no question that he would come within the above quoted definition.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Woodington  
Assistant Attorney General

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