

his direction for neglect of duty, disobedience of orders or misconduct, but shall, within twenty-four hours thereafter, report such suspension or discharge with the reason therefor, to the Commissioner of such department, who shall thereupon, affirm or revoke such suspension or discharge according to the merits under the facts of the case. Every officer or employe so discharged or suspended and whose suspension or discharge has been affirmed, or the officer or person so suspending or discharging a subordinate when such suspension or discharge has been revoked as the case may be, may, within five days from the affirmance or revocation of any such suspension or discharge, appeal therefrom to the Civil Service Commission, if the person taking the appeal was subject to Civil Service, otherwise to the City Council, and such commission or council, as the case may be, shall fully hear and determine the appeal upon the merits of the case, and if it be determined that any such suspension or discharge was unwarranted, the appellant shall be reinstated, otherwise it shall be affirmed. Any such appeal may be taken by serving upon the proper commissioner a notice in writing, within said time, specifying the ruling appealed from, which notice shall be signed by the person taking the appeal. A true copy of such notice of appeal shall be filed with the chairman of the Civil Service Commission or Mayor as the case may be. Within five days from the service of such notice of appeal, the proper department commissioner shall file with the Civil Service Commissioner or City Council, as the case may be, a written specification of the charges or grounds upon which revocation or affirmance of the suspension or discharge appealed from, was based.

Within five days after such specifications are filed as aforesaid, the Commission or Council, as the case may be, shall fix the time and place for hearing the appeal and notify the appellant in writing of the time and place so fixed, which notice shall contain a copy of the specifications so filed. The time for hearing such appeal shall not be fixed earlier than five days, nor later than twenty days from filing such specifications. The council and commission shall have the power to enforce the attendance of witnesses or production of books and papers and to administer oaths in same manner and with like effect and under same penalties as in the case of Magistrates exercising criminal or civil jurisdiction under the statutes of Maryland. The hearing of such appeals shall be public, and appellant may be represented by counsel.