

(a) Before entering upon the duties of their office, each of said Commissioners shall take or subscribe an oath which shall be filed and kept in the office of the City Clerk, to support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Maryland and to obey the laws and to aim to secure and maintain an honest and efficient force, free from partisan distinction or control and to perform the duties of his office to the best of his ability.

(b) Such Commission shall, on the first Monday in April, and October of each year, or oftener if they shall deem it necessary, under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, hold examinations for the purpose of determining the qualifications of applications for positions, including applications for position of Chief of Police and Chief of Fire Department, which examinations shall be practical in their character and shall relate to such matters as will fairly test the fitness of the person examined to discharge the duties of the position to which he seeks to be appointed. Such Commission shall, as soon as possible after every such examination, certify to the City Council the names of ten persons for each department, who, according to its records, have the highest standing for the position they seek to fill, as a result of such examination and all vacancies in positions under Civil Service which shall occur before the holding of the next examination shall be filled from said list so certified; provided, however, if the list for any cause shall be reduced to less than three for any division or department, then the Commissioner of said department may temporarily fill a vacancy until the next examination of the Commission. The present officers and employees of the Police and Fire Departments heretofore appointed under Civil Service regulations shall hold their positions unless removed or disqualified under the provisions of this Act.

(c) All persons subject to such Civil Service examination, except the Chief of Police and the Chief of the Fire Department, shall be subject to removal from office or employment by a majority vote of such Civil Service Commission for misconduct or failure to properly perform their duties under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Council. The Chief of Police and the Chief of the Fire Department may peremptorily suspend or discharge any subordinate then under 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 employee 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