

CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Travis Grimm - Chief of Police

Subject: Subject: Ordinance Update – Camping Prohibition (Compliance with New State Law Florida Statutes Section 125.0231)

Background:

The City of Belle Isle is updating its **Code of Ordinances** to comply with **Florida Statutes Section 125.0231**, which prohibits municipalities from allowing unauthorized camping in public areas. This ordinance ensures **legal alignment with state law** while maintaining public safety, health, and quality of life.

The amendment specifically:

- Prohibits unauthorized camping or sleeping in public spaces (streets, parks, sidewalks, city property).
- Prohibits public urination and defecation outside designated facilities.
- Restricts sitting or lying on sidewalks and bicycle paths to prevent obstruction, with reasonable exceptions.

This ordinance provides law enforcement with clear guidelines for enforcement while ensuring compliance with state mandates.

Staff Recommendation and Council Discussion Points:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion Points:

- State Law Compliance – This ordinance aligns Belle Isle’s Code with Florida Statutes Section 125.0231, ensuring legal compliance and avoiding potential challenges.
- Public Safety & Health – Prohibits unauthorized camping, public urination/defecation, and sidewalk obstructions to maintain clean, accessible, and safe public spaces.
- Minimal Impact, Clear Enforcement – Law enforcement will incorporate enforcement into routine patrols, with clear guidelines and reasonable exemptions to ensure fairness.

Suggested Motion: "I move to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-02, amending Chapter 26 of the Belle Isle Code of Ordinances to prohibit unauthorized camping, urination/defecation in public, and obstruction of sidewalks and bicycle paths, as presented."

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact: There will be minimal financial impact. The Belle Isle Police Department will carry out enforcement as part of routine patrol duties.

Attachments: