

**CITY OF HARTFORD
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN
FIRST READING - AMENDMENT TO GENERAL PROVISIONS CHAPTER 130**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 345 - 2025

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE “GENERAL PROVISIONS” DIVISION OF CHAPTER 130
OF THE HARTFORD CITY CODE TO ADD SECTION 130.5 TO PROHIBIT CAMPING ON
PUBLIC PROPERTY**

The City of Hartford Ordains:

Section 1. Amendment. The “General Provisions” Division of Chapter 130 of the Hartford City Code is hereby amended to add the following Section 130.5:

Sec. 130.5. Prohibition of Camping on Public Property.

(A) Prohibited Activities: In any city property, state property, county property, city park, county trail, or any other public property, it shall be unlawful for any person(s) to:

- (1) Camp: defined as using camping equipment including but not limited to tents, lean-tos, sleeping bags, bedding, tarps, or similar materials for the purpose of establishing a temporary or permanent place to live, or sleeping outdoors on public property during park closure hours as established by separate ordinance.
- (2) Store personal property: defined as leaving personal belongings unattended on public property for more than 24 consecutive hours.
- (3) Start or maintain fires except in designated fire rings or grills provided by the jurisdiction.
- (4) Erect structures - set up any tent, shelter, lean-to, shack, or temporary housing structure.

(B) Enforcement Procedures:

- (1) First contact shall include verbal warning and information about available services when circumstances permit.
- (2) 24-hour notice must be provided before citations are issued, except in emergency situations.
- (3) Personal property removed during enforcement shall be stored for 30 days with reasonable retrieval procedures.

(C) Exceptions: This section does not apply to:

- (1) Designated camping areas with proper permits.
- (2) Emergency shelter during severe weather as determined by city officials.
- (3) Activities authorized by special event permits.
- (4) Sleeping during daylight hours without camping equipment or materials intended for establishing a place to live.

(D) Penalties:

- (1) First violation: Warning or municipal civil infraction citation with a fine not exceeding \$100.
- (2) Subsequent violations: Municipal civil infraction citation with a fine not exceeding \$200.

(E) Equal Application: This ordinance applies to all persons regardless of housing status and regulates conduct, not status.

Section 2. Effective Date. The City Clerk shall cause this ordinance or a notice of adoption of this ordinance to be published. This ordinance shall take effect upon such publication.

YEAS: Commissioners,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

This true and complete copy of Ordinance No. 345-2025 was declared adopted at a regular meeting of the Hartford City Commission held on_____, 2025.

Richard A. Hall, Mayor

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk

Introduced First Reading: July 28, 2025
Second Reading: _____, 2025
Published: _____, 2025

Adopted: _____, 2025
Effective: _____, 2025