CM/rrp
02/19/2026

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-2382

CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, VENDORS, CONTRACTORS, CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES, AND APPOINTEES, INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS; AMENDING CHAPTER 70, ARTICLE I, SECTION 70-1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS; MAKING FINDINGS OF FACT IN SUPPORT THEREOF; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Lake City, Florida (the "City") has historically conducted general background checks of all prospective City employees; and

WHEREAS, Section 166.0442, Florida Statutes authorizes the City, by ordinance, to require state and national criminal history screening for certain municipal employees, vendors, contractors, contractor employees, and appointees, including volunteers; and

WHEREAS, events of terrorism, crimes against children and other vulnerable persons, and major computer crimes in recent years have caused governments to place a higher emphasis on safeguarding infrastructure, the personal security of employees, and the public at-large; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of Ordinance 2026-2358, the City amended Chapter 70, Article I, Section 70-1 of the Code of Ordinances requiring the aforementioned national criminal screenings; and

WHEREAS, certain amendments to Chapter 70, Article I, Section 70-1 of the Code of Ordinances are necessary for the purpose of conforming said ordinance to the requirements of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, amending Chapter 70, Article I, Section 70-1 of the Code of Ordinances requiring state and national criminal history screening of such persons is in the best interests of the City and promotes the health, safety, and welfare of the community; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 70, ARTICLE I, SECTION 70-1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 70-1 Criminal History Record Checks.

(a) Authority. Notwithstanding Chapter 435, Florida Statutes,

and without preempting or preventing any other background screening, including, but not limited to, criminal history record checks which the city may lawfully undertake, this section is hereby established pursuant to Section 166.0442, Florida Statutes, to require state and national criminal history screening of certain municipal employees, appointees, regulated persons, and public service providers.

(b) Definitions. The following terms shall have the corresponding meanings as used in this Section 70-1:

(1) "Municipal employee" shall mean current city employees, persons seeking employment by the city, elected officials, appointees, volunteers, and/or ~~any person~~persons applying for, or continuing employment in any position of municipal employment or appointment, regardless of whether paid, unpaid, or contractual~~, including, but not limited to current city employees, persons seeking employment by the city, elected officials, appointees, and/or volunteers~~.

~~(2) "Regulated person" shall mean any person making application to the city for initial or continuing licensing or regulation by the city as a private contractor, employee of a private contractor, vendor, repair person, or delivery person.~~

~~(3)~~(2) "Public service provider" shall mean any private contractor, employee of a private contractor, vendor, repair person, for-hire chauffeur, or delivery person who has direct contact with individual members of the public, or access to any public facility or publicly operated facility.

(c) Finding of necessity. State and national criminal history screenings by the city of any municipal employee, ~~regulated person,~~ and/or public service provider are deemed necessary and critical to:

(1) maintaining general security; the security of the public, public assets, and public infrastructure; and/or the safety of the public; and

(2) preventing unsuitable persons from having direct contact with individual members of the public or access to any public facility or publicly operated facility critical to security or public safety.

(d) Persons subject to criminal history record checks. State and national criminal history screening and continued screenings (background checks), shall be required of any municipal employee, ~~regulated person;~~ or public service provider.

(e) Criminal history screening, procedure. Each municipal employee, ~~regulated person,~~ and public service provider is required to submit fingerprints pursuant to Section 166.0442(2), Florida Statutes, for state and national criminal history screening, and such fingerprints shall be submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for a state criminal history record check and to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for a national criminal history record check.

(f) Use of Information obtained in the record check. Any information obtained from the criminal history record check conducted by the city pursuant to this Section 70-1 may be used to determine a person's eligibility for initial or continued employment, appointment~~, licensing~~, or service provider status with the city. The information may also be used to determine a person's eligibility as a volunteer. The information obtained may not be issued to private entities, however a copy may be given to the person providing fingerprints upon request.

SECTION 2. CODIFICATION

It is the intention of the City Council that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake City, Florida. The Sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered, re-lettered and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section", "Article" or such other word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention. The correction of typographical errors which do not affect the intent or substance of the ordinance may be authorized by the City Clerk or the City Clerk's designee with the consent of the City Attorney without public hearing, by filing a corrected or re-codified copy of the same with the City.

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are, to the extent they conflict with this Ordinance, repealed.

SECTION 4. PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY

It is the declared intent of the City Council that, if any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, void, or inoperative by a court or agency of competent jurisdiction, such holding of invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance and the remainder of this Ordinance, after the exclusion of such part or parts, shall be deemed to be valid.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

APPROVED, UPON FIRST READING, by the City Council of the City of Lake City at a regular meeting on the ____ day of July, 2026.

PUBLICLY NOTICED, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Lake City, Florida, by the City Clerk of the City of Lake City, Florida, on the ___ day of July, 2026.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED UPON SECOND READING, by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Council of the City of Lake City, at a regular meeting this ____ day of August, 2026.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

_____
Noah E. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

_____
Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____
Clay Martin, City Attorney