

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: May 18, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director
THROUGH: Crystal Caldera, City Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion to Consider Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8 Offenses and Nuisances, to Add Article 8.15 Use of Public Property to Prohibit Persons from Camping, Lodging, Soliciting, or Sleeping on any Park, Public Median, Street, Drainageway, or Right-of-way; or on Any Private Property Without Permission from the Property Owner (1st Read as Required by City Charter).

SPONSOR(S): None

PURPOSE

The purpose of this M & C is to consider approval of an Ordinance amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8 Offences and Nuisances to add an Article 8.15 that would prevent persons from camping, sleeping, lodging, and loitering in city parks, public right of ways, drainage areas, and from using their vehicles or campers to spend the night in any of these areas. It also prohibits the use of private property for these activities without written permission from the property owners.

The City has seen an increase in homeless camps in the recent past and is actively trying to remove these camps. The persons in these camps have caused fires and created large amounts of trash and debris, which the city cleans up at great expense. These new regulations would bolster regulations already in the Park Ordinance, but would also prohibit street corner solicitation, camping on private property without the permission from the property owner, and camping in vehicles.

SEE LEON VALLEY

Social Equity - Providing the citizens with additional safety measures adds to the overall quality of life.

Economic Development - Reducing perceived and potential dangers from homeless encampments promotes overall health, safety, and welfare image of City, which may attract businesses and new residents.

Environmental Stewardship – Preventing trash and debris from accumulating in drainage areas and streams, improves overall environmental quality.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the City Council approve the amendment to the code.

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

ATTEST:

SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Secretary