

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-187

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 4
OF THE MADISON CITY CODE**

WHEREAS, the City of Madison Director of Development Services has recommended that the City Council amend the City Code to provide for additional locations where murals may be located within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has received input from citizens and civic groups on the benefits of expanding the permitted locations for murals.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Madison, Alabama, that Sections 8-98.76 and 8-98.79 of the Madison City Code of Ordinances are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 8-98.76. Location - Generally.

- (a) Murals are permitted on public property and within the Neighborhood Business (B1) District, Community Business (B2) District, Urban Center (UC) District, and Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) District. Murals within the TND District will only be permitted in the designated Neighborhood Center Areas.
- (b) Murals shall be located as to be visible from a street, pedestrian path, or other publicly accessible space.
- (c) Wall surfaces must be associated with a building or its accessory structures and cannot be freestanding wall structures.

Sec. 8-98.79. Specific Mural Requirements.

- (a) There shall be no more than two murals per building.
- (b) Murals may only be installed on side or rear walls of buildings, except consideration shall be given to front walls for mixed use buildings in the B1 District that do not have a side wall.
 - (1) Murals on front walls shall not cover more than 25 percent of the wall façade.
 - (2) Murals on side or rear walls shall not cover more than 75 percent of the wall façade, unless additional coverage is approved by the Mural Advisory Board.
- (c) Window murals are permitted provided they do not occupy more than 25 percent of the window area.
 - (1) Paint used for window murals must be durable to the environment, but also easily removable once the term has expired.
- (d) Murals may not cover or detract from the significant or character-defining architectural features of a structure.

- (1) Murals must complement and enhance the structure they are applied to.
- (e) Murals must exhibit skilled application standards consistent with sound and generally accepted artistic practices and principles.
- (f) Paint must be of superior quality intended for exterior use so not to corrode or compromise the integrity of the material of the building it is applied to.
 - (1) Paint that is reflective, fluorescent, or metallic is prohibited.
 - (2) A weather resistant sealant and anti-graffiti coating shall be applied upon completion.
 - (3) Walls on which murals are located must be cleaned using the gentlest means possible and primed with appropriate paint.
- (g) Walls on which murals are located must be in good repair with roof, flashing and parapets in good condition.
- (h) Lighting for murals must be shielded and directed towards the mural to ensure no spillage of light onto surrounding properties.
- (i) The location, size, nature, or type of mural shall not create a hazard to the safe and efficient operation of vehicles nor create a condition that endangers the safety of persons or property thereon.
 - (1) Murals may not extend beyond the eaves, parapet, or sides of a building.
 - (2) Murals must be located to engage and encourage pedestrian interaction.
 - (3) Murals with a proposed projection from the wall that is located less than eight feet from adjacent ground surface shall have a lawn separating the mural wall and the sidewalk so as to not cause an obstruction of pedestrian traffic.
 - i. If the proposed projection is designed to be interactive, an ADA compliant pathway, approved by the City of Madison, should connect from the sidewalk to the mural.
- (j) Budgeting, insurance, liability, maintenance, and mural removal will be the responsibility of the property or business owner.
 - (1) Whether the rights of the artist commissioned to create the mural are retained or voided is determined by the contract agreement, as well as whether the artist may include their signature on the mural.
 - (2) The contract agreement must also address responsibilities for maintenance, removal, and artist rights if property ownership changes while the mural is still active.
 - (3) A copy of the contract agreement and any amendments thereto must be provided to the City.

- (k) Copyright ownership will be that of the property owner for reproduction of the image (i.e., stickers, apparel, etc.) unless otherwise agreed upon.
- (l) Murals proposed in the Madison Station Historic District shall also follow the District's Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to mural design and requirements.

Section 3. If any provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person, thing or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or application of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end, the provisions of this code and such amendments and statutes are declared to be severable.

Section 4. No other provisions of the City Code are amended by this Ordinance, unless specifically stated and referenced herein.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and proper publication as required by law.

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2025.

John D. Seifert II, Council President
City of Madison, Alabama

ATTEST:

Lisa D. Thomas, City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Madison, Alabama

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2025.

Paul Finley, Mayor
City of Madison, Alabama