

5-1-8 Camping In Public Places

1. Prohibitions: **Except by permit issued under 5-1-8.3**, it shall be unlawful for any person to use any of the streets, sidewalks, parks or public places as a camping place at any time, or to cause or permit any vehicle to remain in any of said places to the detriment of public travel or convenience; or to cause or permit any livestock of any description to be herded into any of said places during any hours of the day or night; provided, that this section shall not prohibit the operation of a sidewalk cafe pursuant to a permit issued by the City Clerk. The term "camp" or "camping" shall mean the use of public property as a temporary or permanent place of dwelling, lodging or residence, or as a living accommodation at any time between sunset and sunrise, or as a sojourn. Indicia of camping may include, but are not limited to, storage of personal belongings, using tents or other temporary structures for sleeping or storage of personal belongings, carrying on cooking activities or making any fire in an unauthorized area, or any of these activities in combination with one another or in combination with either sleeping or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping).
2. Enforcement: Law enforcement officers shall not enforce this camping section when the individual is on public property and there is no available overnight shelter. The term "available overnight shelter" is a public or private shelter, with an available overnight space, open to an individual or family unit experiencing homelessness, at no charge. If the individual cannot utilize the overnight shelter space due to voluntary actions, such as intoxication, drug use, unruly behavior or violation of shelter rules, the overnight shelter space shall still be considered available.
3. Exception: This section does not prohibit sleeping in a public park from dawn to dusk, or those that have sought an overnight request or other sanctioned event by the City. **Visitors planning to sleep in the park must register at City Hall, 401 Virginia Street. Camping is limited to one night. Registration shall include name, phone number, and date of stay. Camping is permitted only in the southwest corner of the park. Donations are welcomed.** (Ord. 369-2020, 8-10-2020)