

ORDINANCE NO. O-2627-7

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADDING SECTION 24-510 TO CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; PROHIBITING CAMPING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENCAMPMENTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROHIBITING OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, AND ACCESS ROUTES; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- § 1. **WHEREAS**, Public parks, sidewalks, trails, easements, rights-of-way, and other public properties are intended for the use and enjoyment of all members of the public.
- § 2. **WHEREAS**, encampments and camping activities on public property may create conditions that interfere with public access, impede compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, increase fire hazards, contribute to the accumulation of trash and human waste, damage public property, and create health and safety concerns.
- § 3. **WHEREAS**, the City has a substantial governmental interest in maintaining public property in a safe, clean, accessible, and sanitary condition for all residents and visitors.
- § 4. **WHEREAS**, the City further finds that public sidewalks, trails, entrances, and access routes must remain open and reasonably accessible to pedestrians, including persons with disabilities.
- § 5. **WHEREAS**, the purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, welfare, accessibility, and the intended public use of public property while encouraging individuals in need of assistance to access available shelter and support services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 6. That the Norman City Code be amended by adding thereto a new section to Article 24-V OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY, “§ 24-510” titled “Camping on Public Property” to read as follows:

24-510 Camping on Public Property

(a) For purposes of this section:

- (1) “Camp” or “Camping” means residing or dwelling temporarily in a place with shelter, bedding, sleeping equipment, personal property, or other

materials indicating an intent to remain overnight or for an extended period.

- (2) “Campsite” means any location where camping occurs or where bedding, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, temporary structures, personal belongings, cooking equipment, or similar items are arranged or stored in a manner reasonably indicating an intent to camp.
- (3) “Public Property” means any property owned, leased, controlled, or maintained by the City, including parks, trails, sidewalks, rights-of-way, easements, medians, public facilities, and vacant municipal property.

(b) Camping

- (1) No person shall camp or maintain a campsite on public property except in connection with a city-sponsored or city-approved special event.
- (2) No person shall store personal property on public property in a manner that constitutes a campsite or that interferes with the intended public use of the property.

(c) Obstruction of Public Access

- (1) No person shall sit, lie, sleep, place personal property, or otherwise obstruct a public sidewalk, trail, public entrance, easement, or ADA-accessible route in a manner that substantially interferes with pedestrian passage.
- (2) A violation occurs only when a reasonable path of travel is obstructed or access is materially impaired.

(d) Exceptions

This ordinance shall not apply to:

- (1) Permitted events authorized by the City;
- (2) City-approved recreational or community activities;
- (3) Emergency response activities undertaken by law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel, including mutual aid responders acting in their official capacities;
- (4) Persons experiencing a medical emergency; and
- (5) Conduct expressly protected by federal or state law, including lawful expressive activity that does not otherwise violate this ordinance.

(e) Notice and Outreach

- (1) Prior to removal of a campsite, the City should, when reasonably practicable and consistent with public safety, provide notice and an opportunity to voluntarily remove personal property.
- (2) The City shall coordinate with service providers, shelters, outreach organizations, and other agencies to offer available assistance to individuals affected by enforcement activities.
- (3) Nothing herein shall prevent immediate action where necessary to address an imminent threat to public health or safety.

(f) Enforcement

- (1) Any person violating this ordinance may be issued a warning, notice of violation, citation, or other lawful enforcement action.
- (2) The City may remove unauthorized campsites and associated debris from public property in accordance with applicable law and City policy.

§ 7. **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or administrative agency of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

§ 8. **EMERGENCY.** An emergency is hereby declared to exist for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare by reason whereof this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and publication.

§ 9. **REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.** That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are now expressly repealed.

ADOPTED this _____ day of

NOT ADOPTED this _____ day of

_____, 2026.

_____, 2026.

Stephen Tyler Holman, Mayor

Stephen Tyler Holman, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk