



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2025

REQUESTER: Rick Jackson, Deputy Chief of Police

PRESENTER: Rick Jackson, Deputy Chief of Police

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-15 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN DELETING SECTION 24-104(E)(6), REPEALING SECTION 24-308, AND DELETING RELATED FINES SET FORTH IN APPENDIX B OF THE NORMAN CODE OF ORDINANCES ALL RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL CRIMINAL CHARGE OF PEEPING TOM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

Oklahoma state law has long criminalized behavior commonly referred to as “peeping tom”. 21 O.S. §1171 states that people who engage in these behaviors - hiding, waiting or loitering in a place where a person has a right to a reasonable expectation of privacy with the intent to watch someone or film or take photographs of someone in a clandestine manner - can be charged with a misdemeanor offense, with punishment up to one (1) year in county jail and/or \$5000 in fines. Under state law, it is a felony if such behavior involves using photographic, electronic or video equipment for any illegal, illegitimate, prurient, lewd or lascivious purpose or who publishes or distributes images from such recordings. A felony violation under this statute carries the potential for significantly more jail time.

The City’s Code has also long criminalized this behavior. Section 24-308 contains almost identical language to state law, except that if a person is charged under the Municipal Code, the maximum penalty is \$750 and/or up to 60 days in county jail. Importantly, municipal convictions in courts not of record like Norman, are not reported in the same way so that law enforcement from other agencies could not assess whether a possible offender in their community had prior convictions in Norman if the convictions were of a municipal ordinance and not a state statute.

DISCUSSION:

Ordinance O-2526-15 eliminates the municipal charge of “peeping tom” from the City’s code. Certainly not all defendants charged with “peeping tom” violations escalate their behavior to more egregious behavior, but many suspects charged with more egregious sexually deviant behaviors admit to starting out with “peeping tom” behavior. Eliminating this charge from the City’s code ensures that suspected violations will be filed with the DA’s office and in Cleveland

County District Court for prosecution. Ordinance O-2526-15 also eliminates reference to the charge of “peeping tom” in Section 24-104 Penalties, and in Appendix B, City of Norman Penalty and Fine Schedule.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance O-2526-15 upon Second and Final Reading.