

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO: 7997

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO: 25-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. IMPASTATO/PRES. COOPER

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025

ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTO THE CORONER'S OPERATIONAL FUND AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE TRANSFER OF REVENUE EARNED BY THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, the office of coroner is provided for in Article 5, § 29 of the Louisiana Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the coroner's duties are set out primarily in La. R.S. 33:1551, *et seq.* and La. Code Crim. Proc. arts. 101, *et seq.* and include responsibilities such as viewing bodies and/or conducting investigations for those types of deaths required by law; issuing death certificates and other reports; examining all victims who allege they have been raped; performing or causing autopsies to be performed in deaths caused in violation of criminal statutes; and doing commitment investigations; and

WHEREAS, the list of coroner duties does not include a duty to hold, invest, or manage funds; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 13:5722 provides for the creation and functionality of the Coroner's Operational Funds ("COF") dedicated solely to defraying the operational costs of the office of the coroner of the parish; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government established a separate account for the COF funds, that cannot, under the law, be diverted to any purpose not associated with defraying the operational costs of the office of the coroner of the parish; and

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Charter, Sec. 4-04 places a duty on the Director of Finance to disburse funds to the coroner from accounts holding COF funds; and

WHEREAS, unless otherwise provided for by the Louisiana Legislature or by the governing authority for St. Tammany Parish operating under a home rule charter, the coroner for St. Tammany Parish has no power or legal authority to retain or keep income generated by their efforts, the efforts of their employees, or by the use of equipment, supplies or materials paid for and owned by the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, including revenue generated by the St. Tammany Parish DNA laboratory; and

WHEREAS, income generated by the efforts of the coroner, the efforts of their employees, or by the use of equipment, supplies or materials paid for and owned by the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, including revenue generated by the St. Tammany Parish DNA laboratory, should be used to fund the necessary and proper expenses of the coroner.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that:

- (a) The St. Tammany Parish Coroner shall transfer all funds on hand received from any source, unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, to the governing authority for St. Tammany Parish.
- (b) The funds received from the coroner pursuant to this ordinance shall be deposited into the special account established to hold COF funds and the funds deposited in the

account shall be expended solely to defray the operational costs of the office of the coroner.

- (c) Beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and continuing on a quarterly basis thereafter, the coroner shall account for and transfer to STPG any revenue from the efforts of the coroner for St. Tammany Parish, the efforts of their employees, or by the use of equipment, supplies or materials paid for and owned by the citizens of St. Tammany Parish including revenue generated by utilizing the St. Tammany Parish DNA laboratory. The funds transferred to STPG pursuant to this provision shall be deposited in the special account established to hold COF funds and shall be expended solely to defray the operational costs of the office of the coroner.
- (d) In the event the coroner fails to transfer the funds he currently holds, the governing authority may seek any available remedies, including a writ of mandamus to compel the coroner to transfer the funds, or any other form of relief.

SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after execution.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 25-  
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JOE IMPASTATO, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

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KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

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MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: OCTOBER 29, 2025  
Published Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Delivered to Parish President: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 at \_\_\_\_\_  
Returned to Council Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 at \_\_\_\_\_