

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO.: 7558

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. LAUGHLIN

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA/COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

ON THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART I – CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 22 – LICENSES, TAXES AND REGULATION, TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE XIII, SEC. 22-600 – QUALIFIED FIRST RESPONDER AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION, TO ADOPT AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION OF UP TO \$2,500 OF THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY RECEIVING THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION THAT IS OWNED AND OCCUPIED BY A QUALIFIED FIRST RESPONDER PURSUANT TO LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII, SECTION 21(O).

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act No. 179 in its 2023 Regular Session which proposed an amendment to Article VII, Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution to authorize the local governing authority of a parish to an ad valorem tax exemption for qualified first responders, as defined therein; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of electors of the State of Louisiana, including a majority of electors in St. Tammany Parish, voted in a statewide election held on November 18, 2023, to approve the proposed constitutional amendment to add Article VII, Section 21(O); and,

WHEREAS, Louisiana Constitution Article VII, Section 21(O) provides that in addition to the homestead exemption provided for in Section 20, the parish governing authority to approve an ad valorem tax exemption of up to \$2,500 of the assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a qualified first responder; and,

WHEREAS, a “qualified first responder” is defined in Article VII, Section 21(O) as a volunteer firefighter who has completed within the tax year no fewer than twenty-four hours of firefighter continuing education and is an active member of the Louisiana State Firemen’s Association or is on the departmental personnel roster of the Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Program of the office of state fire marshal. “Qualified first responder” shall also mean a full-time public employee whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency and who resides in the same parish in which their employer is located. The term includes the following: (a) peace officer, which means any sheriff, police officer, or other person deputized by proper authority to serve as a peace officer; (b) fire protection personnel; (c) an individual certified as emergency medical services personnel; (d) an emergency response operator or emergency services dispatcher who provides communication support services for an agency by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, as required by Article VII, Section 21(O)(4), St. Tammany Parish Government requests that the tax assessor establish a procedure whereby a qualified individual may annually apply for the exemption, including the production of documentation issued by the first responder’s employer evidencing employment for the taxable period for which the exemption is being requested; and,

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the vote by a majority of electors of this parish and state, the St. Tammany Parish Council, as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Tammany, desires to approve and make applicable in the Parish of St. Tammany an ad valorem tax exemption of up to \$2,500 of the assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a qualified first responder pursuant to Article VII, Section 21(O) of the Louisiana Constitution.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Part I – Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 – Licenses, Taxation and Regulations, be amended to add Article XIII, Sec. 22-600 – Qualified First Responder Ad Valorem Tax Exemption, and add reserved sections, to provide as follows:

Sec. 22-596-599. Reserved.

ARTICLE XIII. – QUALIFIED FIRST RESPONDER AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION

Sec. 22-600. Qualified First Responder Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.

- (1) Pursuant to Louisiana Constitution Article VII, Section 21(O), the St. Tammany Parish Council, as the governing authority for the Parish of St. Tammany Parish, hereby approves and makes applicable in the Parish of St. Tammany an ad valorem tax exemption of up to \$2,500 of the assessed valuation of property receiving the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a qualified first responder, and upon satisfactory completion of the exemption application requirements established by the St. Tammany Parish Tax Assessor.
- (2) Pursuant to Section 3 of Act No. 179 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the ad valorem tax exemption approved and made applicable herein shall apply to ad valorem taxes due in tax year 2024 and thereafter.

Sec. 22-600-605. Reserved.

REPEAL: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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 fifteen (15) days after adoption.

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 2ND DAY OF MAY, 2024; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-.

ARTHUR LAUGHLIN, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: MARCH 27, 2024

Published Adoption: _____, 2024

Delivered to Parish President: _____, 2024 at _____

Returned to Council Clerk: _____, 2024 at _____