

TEMPORARY ORDINANCE NO. 38-25

PERMANENT ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART FIVE – GENERAL OFFENSES CODE OF THE LANCASTER CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND ADOPTING CHAPTER 568 – CAMPING PROHIBITED

WHEREAS, at its May 23, 2025, meeting the Law Committee approved proposing to Lancaster City Council as a whole that Chapter 568 – Camping Prohibited be adopted to regulate camping on public and private property within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, this new codified ordinance is necessary to remediate citizen complaints regarding significant health concerns on public property, to ensure the safety of all users of public property, and to assist law enforcement and code enforcement officers who encounter individuals unlawfully camping on public or private property; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Lancaster Codified Ordinances Part Five – General Offenses Code shall hereby be amended and Chapter 568 – Camping Prohibited shall hereby be adopted and enacted pursuant to “Exhibit A” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ reading. Vote: Yeas \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Offered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second by: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: Law Committee

I, Anitra Scott, Clerk of Council do hereby certify that on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette published the summary of this ordinance in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 731.24.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council



**CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF LANCASTER  
PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE**

- Chap. 501. General Provisions and Penalty.**
- Chap. 503. Alarm Systems.**
- Chap. 505. Animals and Fowl.**
- Chap. 509. Disorderly Conduct and Peace Disturbance.**
- Chap. 513. Drug Abuse Control.**
- Chap. 515. Felon Registration.**
- Chap. 517. Gambling.**
- Chap. 521. Health, Safety and Sanitation.**
- Chap. 525. Law Enforcement and Public Office.**
- Chap. 529. Liquor Control.**
- Chap. 531. Obscene Materials, Performances and Other Matters.**
- Chap. 533. Obscenity and Sex Offenses.**
- Chap. 537. Offenses Against Persons.**
- Chap. 541. Property Offenses.**
- Chap. 545. Theft and Fraud.**
- Chap. 549. Weapons and Explosives.**
- Chap. 553. Railroads.**
- Chap. 561. Streets and Sidewalks. (Repealed)**
- Chap. 565. Weeds and Trees.**
- Chap. 567. Civil Penalties for Violations Under Live Digital Video School  
Bus Violation Detection Monitoring Technology (“DMT”).**
- Chap. 568. Camping Prohibited**

**CHAPTER 568  
CAMPING PROHIBITED**

- 568.01 Purpose**
- 568.02 Definitions**
- 568.03 Prohibition**
- 568.04 Enforcement**
- 568.99 Penalty**

**568.01 PURPOSE**

This chapter is adopted for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and welfare of all residents by ensuring the safe and orderly use of public and private property.

**568.02 DEFINITIONS**

(a) As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Camping" means the use of any public or private property for the purpose of sleeping, preparing to sleep, storing personal property, performing food preparation activities, or overnight or longer habitation. "Camping" may or may not include the use of any manmade or natural shelter. "Camping" does not include habitation in a lawful structure, napping during the day, or picnicking.

**568.03 PROHIBITION**

- (a) As a matter of individual and public safety, except as may be permitted by the Service-Safety Director, the Board of Park Commissioners, or in designated areas pursuant to this Code, camping is prohibited within the City.

**568.04 ENFORCEMENT**

- (a) Any officer employed by the Lancaster Police Department or the Lancaster Code Enforcement Department shall have authority to enforce any requirements of this Chapter.

**568.99 PENALTY**

- (a) Whoever violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on the first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense in accordance with the penalties as listed in Section 501.99. A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.
- (b) In addition to any other remedy provided by law, any person found in violation of this chapter may be immediately removed from the premises.