

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE,
TEXAS AMENDING THE ORANGE CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 7
"OFFENSES & NUISANCES" ARTICLE 7.1300 "CAMPING IN PUBLIC
AREAS" IN ITS ENTIRETY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT
WITH THIS ORDINANCE TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT;
PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY
CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND OTHER MATTERS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Orange seeks to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Orange; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized camping is frequently the cause of public health nuisances, including the improper disposal of human excreta, wastewater and garbage, as defined by section 341.011 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized camping may provide harborage to rodents and other disease-carrying pests which may be innately harmful to people and property; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized camping may create a fire hazard to structures and nearby properties; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized camping may diminish property values and the appearance of a neighborhood, diminishing any incentive for others in the neighborhood to maintain their own property, thus creating a self-perpetuating cycle; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized camping more frequently occurs on unattended or vacant properties; and

WHEREAS, it is in the legitimate interest of the City of Orange to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens by setting reasonable standards for the maintenance of public properties and by abating the nuisances related to unauthorized camping on public properties; now, therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE,
TEXAS**

Section 1. That. the Orange Code of Ordinances Chapter 7 "Offenses & Nuisances" Article 7.1300 "Camping in Public Areas" is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

(a) Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Article 7.1300, shall have the meanings ascribed to them as follows:

Authorization shall mean express written permission given by a governmental official authorized to provide written permission.

Camp or camping shall mean residing or dwelling temporarily on property, a lot or a parcel of land, using Transitory Shelter and including the following:

- Sleeping either with or without bedding, or making preparation to sleep, including laying down of bedding, sleeping bag, blanket, mattress, tent, hammock, or other similar protection or equipment for the purpose of sleeping;
- Storing personal belongings for a period longer than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours;
- Making a fire; or
- Performing cooking activities.

Governmental Entity shall mean a political subdivision of the State of Texas, including, but not limited to, a municipality, county, unit of state government, public school district, junior college district, community college district, or special purpose district.

Public property shall mean property, lot, or parcel of land owned by a governmental entity including but not limited to streets, highways, rights-of-way, bridges, parks, parking lots, alleyways, sidewalks, parkways, medians, common areas, buildings, transport facilities, or structures.

Reside or dwell shall mean, without limitation, eating, sleeping or the storage of personal possessions on any public property.

Transitory Shelter shall mean, without limitation, any tent, tarpaulin, lean-to, sleeping bag, bedroll, mattress, blanket, cloth, clothing, cardboard, newspapers, or any form of cover or protection from the elements that is not manufactured or designed to be a permanent structure.

(b) Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any person to camp upon any public property without the authorization of the governmental entity owning the property, lot or parcel of land.

Section 2. That, all Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance be repealed to the extent of such conflict and all other Ordinances of the City not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

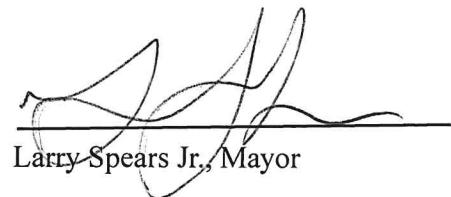
Section 3. That, it is expressly ordained that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance shall be found to be illegal, invalid or void by any court of competent jurisdiction, then such findings shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance, but the same shall be valid and in effect, it being the expressed intention of the City Council of the City of Orange, Texas, to pass each and every sentence, clause, paragraph, or section individually.

Section 4. That, any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount allowed by the City of Orange Code of Ordinances Chapter 1 "General Provisions" Section 1.106 "General Penalty for Code Violations" of the City of Orange Code of Ordinances.

Section 5. That, this ordinance shall become effective upon second and final reading and publication as required by the City Charter and State law

PASSED AND APPROVED on first reading this the 28th day of October, 2025.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on final reading this the 18th day of November, 2025.



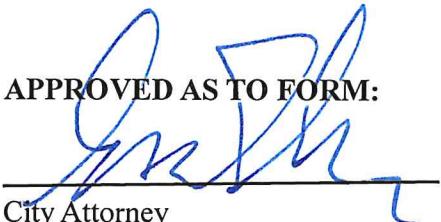
Larry Spears Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia Anderson, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney

MEMORANDUM

To: Michael Kunst, City Manager

From: Kelvin Knauf, Director of Planning and Community Development

Subject: Consider and possible action on an ordinance amending the Orange Code of Ordinances Chapter 7 “Offenses & Nuisances” concerning camping on public property

Date: October 16, 2025

Attached is a proposed ordinance that would amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 7 concerning camping on public property¹. The proposed ordinance revises the current ordinance by:

- Eliminating the phrase “doing any digging or earth breaking” from the camping definition since new construction or utility installation on property often includes digging or earth breaking and makes the definition of camping the same as the definition for a proposed ordinance regulating camping on private property;
- Providing a definition for governmental entity;
- Revising the definition for public property as property owned by a governmental entity;
- Providing a definition for Transitory Shelter to include tents, tarpaulins, lean-to, sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, cardboard, newspapers or other items not intended to be permanent structures;

Violations of the ordinance would be subject to a fine in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount allowed by the Code of Ordinances.

These amendments provide clarity for enforcement and align the ordinance with similar proposed regulations governing camping on private property.

¹ The current ordinance regulating camping on public property was adopted on April 25, 2000.