

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, PROHIBITING CAMPING AND CONSTRUCTING CAMP FACILITIES ON THE GROUNDS OF THE OLYMPIA CITY HALL; AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 12.74, CITY HALL, TO TITLE 12, STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES, OF THE OLYMPIA MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, persons constructing shelters and camping on the grounds of the Olympia City Hall presents a safety hazard, as well as creates significant negative impacts on the environment, public health and public property, while impairing the intended function of the City Hall facility; and

WHEREAS, safety hazards include obstructions and/or impediments in public spaces and public rights-of-way interfering with the rights of others to use the areas for which they were intended. Persons camping at City Hall also frequently have animals which have caused fear and apprehension in persons accessing or approaching City Hall, and in at least one instance an employee was bitten by a camper's dog; and

WHEREAS, environmental impacts include contamination from improper disposal of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, public health impacts include a lack of proper sanitary facilities creating a situation where individuals have commonly and openly urinated and defecated on the grounds of the Olympia City Hall and on the adjacent public rights-of-way, and a lack of solid waste disposal facilities causing the accumulation of human waste, litter, garbage and other debris; and

WHEREAS, public property impacts include interference with the intended use of public property and/or rights-of-way by members of the community at large, and negative impacts on the aesthetic value of the property and/or rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, interference with the intended use of the Olympia City Hall includes interference with access to the facility by members of the public and City employees, including use of the facilities for nighttime and weekend meetings and drop boxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has had to expend substantial public resources to clean the area and remove human waste, litter, garbage and other debris; and

WHEREAS, by enacting and enforcing the following prohibitions, the City of Olympia intends to mitigate the harms outlined in the preceding recitals, and reverse the rapidly escalating problems associated with large numbers of people regularly constructing shelters and camping on the grounds of the Olympia City Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals above shall be treated as findings and conclusions in support of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Amendment of OMC Title 12. The following NEW CHAPTER 12.74 is hereby added to Title 12 of the Olympia Municipal Code to read as follows:

**Title 12
STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES**

Chapters:

- 12.02 Olympia Development Standards**
- 12.03 Engineering Inspection Fees**
- 12.04 Monuments and Grades**
- 12.08 Public Works Standard Specifications**
- 12.10 Olympia Commute Trip Reduction Plan**
- 12.12 Comprehensive Street Improvement Plan**
- 12.14 Transportation Benefit District**
- 12.16 Street Vacations**
- 12.20 Street Excavations**
- 12.24 Obstructions**
- 12.28 Moving Buildings**
- 12.36 Sidewalk Maintenance**
- 12.44 Street Trees**
- 12.48 Street Names and House Numbers**
- 12.52 Private Oiling or Paving of Streets**
- 12.56 Boulevard Lighting System**
- 12.60 Park Regulations**
- 12.62 Naming City-Owned Public Buildings, Properties, Parks and Park Facilities**
- 12.64 Harbor Regulations**
- 12.68 Percival Landing Moorage Facility**
- 12.72 Festival Events**
- 12.74 City Hall**

**Chapter 12.74
CITY HALL**

12.74.000 Chapter Contents

Sections:

- 12.74.010 Camping and Constructing Camp Facilities at City Hall Prohibited.
- 12.74.020 Definitions.
- 12.74.030 Penalties.

12.74.010 Camping and Constructing Camp Facilities at City Hall Prohibited

A. It shall be unlawful at all times to camp or construct camp facilities at or on the grounds of the Olympia City Hall.

B. For purposes of this Chapter, "Olympia City Hall" means the building and adjacent grounds, sidewalks, parking lots, and plazas covering the entire block at 601 – 4th Avenue E. in the City of Olympia, Washington.

12.74.020 Definitions

The following definitions are applicable in this Chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

A. "Camp" means use of camp paraphernalia or construction or use of camp facilities.

B. "Camp facilities" include, but are not limited to, tents, huts, lean-tos, tarpaulins, canvas, cardboard, corrugated tin, or other temporary shelters.

C. "Camp paraphernalia" are items that can be used for the purposes of habitation and include, but are not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, bedrolls, mattresses, hammocks, or cooking facilities or equipment.

12.74.030 Penalties

Any violation of the provisions of this Chapter is a misdemeanor punishable as defined in OMC 9.64.010.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared separate and severable. If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance or application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, shall be unaffected.

Section 4. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 5. Declaration of Emergency – Effective Date. For the reasons set forth above, and to promote the objectives stated herein, the City Council finds that a public emergency exists, necessitating that this Ordinance take effect immediately upon its passage by a majority plus one of the whole membership of the Council in order to protect the public health, safety, property and general welfare. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon passage by the City Council.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED:

APPROVED:

PUBLISHED: