

## City of Salem

**In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-five**

**An Ordinance** to amend an Ordinance relative to Camping.

**Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:**

**Section I. Sec. 24-31. Camping** – is hereby amended by:

- (a) Adding a second sentence to the definition of "*Period when shelter is unavailable*" as follows: "An individual's behavior preventing admission, as defined by the shelter, to an otherwise available shelter shall not be considered an unavailability of shelter."
- (b) Adding a new definition after "*Reasonable transit access*" as follows: "*Red Flag Warning* means a warning issued by the National Weather Service alerting about critical fire weather conditions, indicating that any fires that start may spread rapidly and become difficult to extinguish."
- (c) Adding a new phrase "regardless of their ownership of the property," to section (d) *Unlawful camping on private property* within the first sentence of this section immediately after the words "it is unlawful for any person" and before the words "to camp or maintain a campsite."
- (d) Adding a new sentence at the end of section (d) *Unlawful camping on private property* as follows: "Anyone camping on another person's property without permission is still subject to Trespass."
- (e) Adding the phrase "with the exception of those times when a Red Flag Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service" to the end of section (e) *Restrictions on unlawful camping during a period when shelter is unavailable* sub-paragraph (1).
- (f) Deleting the words "which is updated daily," as they appear in section (e) *Restrictions on unlawful camping during a period when shelter is unavailable* sub-paragraph (2).
- (g) Deleting the words "board of health or its agent" and replacing them with the words "health department" as they appear in section (e) *Restrictions on unlawful camping during a period when shelter is unavailable* sub-paragraph (4).
- (h) Adding a new sentence to the end of section (e) *Restrictions on unlawful camping during a period when shelter is unavailable* sub-paragraph (4) as follows: "Failure to abide by any such regulation shall be grounds for the campsite to be removed."
- (i) Adding a new paragraph to section (e) *Restrictions on unlawful camping during a period when shelter is unavailable* as follows: "(5) During any Period When Shelter Is Unavailable, if the City, through the Board of Health or its Agent Health Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department, or the Department of Inspectional Services, determines that any established campsite on public property is a safety or public health hazard, such campsite shall be removed by

city officials after twenty-four (24) hours posted notice to the occupant. The camping material and other personal property shall be removed and Eligible Property stored consistent with the City Storage Policy. The City, its employees and agents shall not be responsible for the loss or damage of property ineligible for storage when a campsite has been removed after notice. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of city officials to order the immediate removal of a campsite in the event of a significant public health or safety hazard."

- (j) Deleting the last sentence of Section (f) *Offer of Shelter* sub-paragraph (1) which states "Before making a referral, the city shall ensure a space is available for a reasonable period of time.
- (k) Deleting the words "72 hours" and replacing them with the words "12 hours" as they appear in section (i) *Notice to Individuals* subparagraph (3).

**Section II.** This ordinance shall take effect as provided by city charter.

In City Council April 10, 2025

Referred to the Committee on Public Health, Safety and the Environment co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

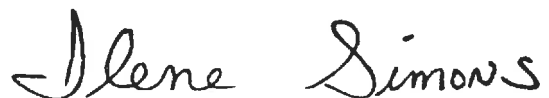
In City Council April 24, 2025

Adopted for first passage as amended

In City Council May 8, 2025

Adopted for second passage as amended

Approved by the Mayor on May 12, 2025



ILENE SIMONS  
CITY CLERK

ATTEST: