ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1094

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CERES ADDING SECTION 10.05.000 – DEFINITIONS, AMENDING SECTION 10.05.020 – REGULATIONS FOR BICYCLE OPERATION, ADDING SECTION 10.05.120 – ORGANIZED, PLANNED OR STREET TAKE OVER, AND ADDING SECTION 10.05.130 – PENALTIES, OF THE CERES MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, Staff has received numerous community concerns and complaints regarding unlawful and unsafe bicycle riding in the streets of the City of Ceres; and

WHEREAS, the cyclists are riding their bicycles at vehicles, around vehicles and in-between vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Staff recognized the need to enhance the City Municipal Code regarding bicycles to allow officers to take more appropriate corrective action to hold violators, their parents and any organizers accountable.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF CERES CITY COUNCIL DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 10.05.000, Definitions, of Chapter 5, Bicycles, of Title 5, of the Ceres Municipal Code, is added to read as follows:

10.05.000 - Definitions

Bicycle is a device upon which a person may ride, propelled exclusively by human power, except as provided in Section 312.5 of the California Vehicle Code, through a belt, chain, or gears, and having one or more wheels. A person riding a bicycle is subject to the provisions of this code specified in Sections 21200 and 21200.5.

Electric bicycle is a bicycle unless otherwise defined in the California Vehicle Code. This code shall apply to all scooters as well as electric scooter type devices.

SECTION 2. Section 10.05.020, Regulations for bicycle operation, of Chapter 5, Bicycles, of Title 5, of the Ceres Municipal Code, is amended to read as follows:

10.05.020 – Regulations for Bicycle Operation

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride or operate a bicycle in the City in violation of the rules of the road as set forth herein:

A. No person shall operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk within the downtown Business District, or upon any sidewalks in front of schools, stores, or other buildings used for business or for public assembly.

B. Whenever a person operates a bicycle upon a sidewalk not expressly prohibited in subsection A, such person shall at all times yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians.

C. No bicycle on any sidewalk shall be used to carry more persons than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

D. Persons operating bicycles upon a sidewalk or other pedestrian facility shall not ride abreast with another bicycle except on paths or parts of public ways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

E. No person shall park a bicycle upon any street, sidewalk, alley, or other public way other than immediately adjacent to the curb or edge of the traveled way or in a rack to support the bicycle or against a building, in such a manner as to afford the least obstruction to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. When a rack is provided, no person shall park a bicycle, except in such a rack, on an adjacent street, sidewalk, alley or other public way within 200 feet from such rack.

F. No person shall operate a bicycle upon any playground or park or school ground, except on established paths or walkways, without permission of the person having supervision thereof.

G. No person operating a bicycle shall disregard any lawful order of a peace officer or city employee authorized to enforce City municipal codes.

H. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously remove, destroy, mutilate or alter the number of any bicycle frame licensed pursuant to this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, mutilate or alter any license or registration card during the time when such license or registration card is operative. Provided, however, that nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the stamping of numbers on the frames of bicycles on which no serial number can be found, or on which said number is illegible or insufficient for identification purposes.

I. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle at any City sponsored events including but not limited to Street Faire, Christmas Tree Lane, and Sky's the Limit, and any event where the streets or areas have been closed off for vehicle traffic.

SECTION 3. Section 10.05.120, Organized, Planned or Street Take Over, of Chapter 5, Bicycles, of Title 5, of the Ceres Municipal Code, is added to read as follows:

10.05.120 – Organized, Planned, or Street Take Over

A. It is unlawful for any person to participate in an organized, planned, or spontaneous street takeover event using a bicycle in a manner that demonstrates willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. This includes, but is not limited to, operating or riding a bicycle in violation of any applicable provision of

this Code or the California Vehicle Code. A violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor pursuant to Chapter 02 of the City Code.

B. The organizer or promoter of an event that violates subsection (a) of this code may be charged with a misdemeanor pursuant to Section 19.02.030(a) of the City Code.

C. Any adult who participates in or encourages a violation of this section may be charged with a misdemeanor pursuant to Section 19.02.030(a) of the City Code.

SECTION 4. Section 10.05.130, Penalties, of Chapter 5, Bicycles, of Title 5, of the Ceres Municipal Code, is added to read as follows:

10.05.130 – Penalties

A. Any violation of this section unless defined otherwise is an infraction pursuant to Section 19.02.030(b) of the City Code.

B. In addition to any other penalties provided by this Code, the Chief of Police or his/her designee is hereby authorized to require any minor less than sixteen (16) years of age who operates a bicycle in violation of any of the Provisions of this Code, or of the California Vehicle Code, to attend a bicycle operator's school to be conducted under the supervision of the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Such school shall be for the purpose of educating the violator regarding proper operation of a bicycle and the provisions of law applicable to bicycles.

C. Any violation of this section can result in the bicycle being impounded by the Police Department for 30 days.

D. Any bicycle impounded by the Police Department within a 365-day period shall be subject to release and storage fees as follows:

1. First Impound - $250.00
2. Second Impound - $500.00
3. Third Impound - $750.00
4. Fourth Impound and any thereafter - $1,000.00

E. Regardless of whether the bicycle has been impounded under subsection D, any person operating a bicycle will be subject to progressive impound fees if they have had other bicycles impounded within the past 365 days.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 6. PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become

effective thirty (30) days from and after its final passage and adoption, provided it is published in a newspaper of a general circulation at least within fifteen (15) days after its passage or a summary of the Ordinance is published in a newspaper of general circulation at least five (5) days prior to adoption and again at least fifteen (15) days after its passage.

SECTION 7. CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL ADOPTION AND APPROVAL. This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 10th day of November 2025, and passed and adopted as Ordinance No. 2025-1094 at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 8th day of December 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers: Casey, Otero, Martinez, Vierra & Mayor Lopez
NOES:	Councilmembers: None
ABSENT:	Councilmembers: None
ABSTAIN:	Councilmembers: None

APPROVED:

Javier Lopez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fallon Martin, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Nubia I. Goldstein, City Attorney