

ORDINANCE NO. 197

AN ORDINANCE MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO OBTAIN LODGING OR FOOD WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD AND ESTABLISHING RULES OF EVIDENCE IN PROSECUTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IN BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain food, lodging or other accommodations at any hotel, motel, apartment house, rooming house, inn, boarding house, trailer park, mobile home park, tourist camp or restaurant, with intent to defraud the owner or keeper thereof.

SECTION 2. If any owner or keeper, including manager or assistant manager, in the absence of the owner or keeper, of such establishment has probable cause to believe, and does believe, that any person has obtained food, lodging or other accommodations at such establishment with intent to defraud the owner or keeper thereof, and upon demand for payment being made, and there being no dispute as to the amount owed, failure to make payment shall constitute prima facie evidence of intent to defraud; provided, further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply where there has been an agreement in writing for delay in payments.

SECTION 3. In prosecutions under this Ordinance, proof that lodging, food or other accommodations were obtained by false pretense or by false or fictitious show or pretense of any baggage or other property, or by absconding without paying or offering to pay for such food, lodging or accommodations, or by surreptitiously removing or attempting to remove baggage, or if any owner or keeper, including manager or assistant manager, in the absence of the owner or keeper, of such establishment has probable cause to believe, and does believe, that any person has obtained food, lodging or other accommodations at such establishment with intent to defraud the owner or keeper thereof upon failure to make payment upon demand being made therefor, and there being no dispute as to the amount owed, shall constitute prima facie evidence of the fraudulent intent mentioned in this Ordinance.