

ORDINANCE NO. 597

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA AMENDING THE SPRINGFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE I, OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS; ADDING SECTION 50-7 PROVIDING RESTRICTIONS ON CAMPING AND UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANCIES; INCLUDING DEFINITIONS AND PENALTIES; REPEALING ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City has encountered a growing problem of trespassers or unauthorized persons camping, living in uninhabitable conditions on private and public vacant land, and occupying unfit or unsafe dwellings or structures resulting in an increase in vandalism, litter; creating unsanitary health nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that due to the health, safety and welfare of the general public, it is in the public's best interest to limit camping on private and public property to owners, tenants in possession, and their invited guests; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Springfield desires to amend Chapter 50, of the Springfield Code Ordinances, relating to Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions in order to restrict unauthorized persons from camping and living on private or public vacant land or in unfit or unsafe dwellings or structures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Springfield City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida that:

SECTION 1. Amendment. City of Springfield Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50 titled Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I is hereby amended to add the following **bold and underlined** text:

Sec. 50-7 – Restrictions on camping and unauthorized occupancy:

(a) **As used in this section, the following definitions are applicable:**

- (1) **Camp means to pitch or occupy camp facilities or to store or use camp paraphernalia for sleeping or cooking;**
- (2) **Camp facilities include but are not limited to: tents, huts, sheds, boxed structures, debilitated buildings/houses and/or temporary shelters;**
- (3) **Camp paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, boxes, cartons, hammocks, and portable camp stoves;**
- (4) **Store means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, to place or leave in a location open to public view.**

- (5) Unauthorized occupancy means occupying a property deemed to be an unfit or unsafe dwelling or structure as defined in Section 34-61.
- (6) Vacant property means any parcel of land that does not have a primary structure.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp, occupy camp facilities, use, or store camp paraphernalia on any public or private vacant property within the city limits of Springfield.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized occupancy to occur on any property deemed by the City to be an unfit or unsafe dwelling or structure in the city limits of Springfield.
- (d) Violations of this section shall be investigated, cited, processed, adjudicated and punishable as provided in Sec. 1-12 and in the same manner as a misdemeanor by sworn law enforcement officers. Upon conviction, a violator will be told to vacate the premises or property and can be fined \$500.00 or imprisoned for a term not exceeding 60 days, or both a fine and imprisonment. Nothing shall prevent the City from enforcing this section by any other means provided by law, including seeking injunctive relief.
- (e) Violators who are found to be in violation of this section may be removed from the property by sworn law enforcement officers of the City of Springfield.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall conflict with or otherwise impair sworn law enforcement officers of the City of Springfield from enforcing the provisions of Chapter 810, Florida Statutes, relating to trespassing.

SECTION 2. Repealer. All Codes, Ordinances and/or Resolutions or parts of Codes, Ordinance and/or Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section or portion of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining provision shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, this 6th day of NOVEMBER, 2023.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA

By: 
Ralph Hammond, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Teresa Cox, City Clerk