

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-43**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 541 OF THE  
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY,  
OHIO, TITLED, "PROPERTY OFFENSES"; SPECIFICALLY,  
ESTABLISHING SECTION 541.11, TITLED, "CAMPING  
PROHIBITION UPON PUBLIC PROPERTY".**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY, THE COUNTY OF LAKE, AND THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** That Chapter 541 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, "Property Offenses" is hereby amended; specifically, to establish Section 541.11, titled, "Camping Prohibition Upon Public Property"; to read and provide as follows:

**541.11 CAMPING PROHIBITION UPON PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

- (a)** Except as may be permitted within municipal parks by the Safety Director, or his or her designee, or as otherwise provided in division (c) of this Section, it is unlawful to camp upon any public property owned by the City, including, without limitation, streets, sidewalks, easements, parks, parking lots, public grounds or public rights-of-way.
- (b)** As used in this Section, "to camp" means setting up, remaining in or at property for the purpose of sleeping, making preparation to sleep, storing personal property, and/or cooking activities for habitation purposes.
- (c)** This Section shall not apply to persons who:
  - (1)** Have no alternative lodging available to them, and are otherwise homeless, and
  - (2)** Have insufficient resources to secure alternative lodging, and
  - (3)** Are unable to secure free services such as shelters within a reasonable proximity to the City, or hotel/motel vouchers which are or have been made available.
- (d)** Whoever violates this Section is guilty of "illegal public camping". Except as otherwise provided, "illegal public camping" is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the offender has been convicted of, or plead guilty to "illegal public camping", then the violation is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**SECTION 2.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were conducted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such actions were conducted in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby.

**SECTION 3.** That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect immediately upon its passage by Council and its approval by the Mayor, or at the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: March 14, 2024 [Signature]  
President of Council

Attest: [Signature]  
Clerk of Council

Date: 3.20.24 Approved: [Signature]  
Mayor

Submitted to the Mayor for his approval on this 20th day of March, 2024.  
[Signature]  
Clerk of Council