

ORDINANCE NO. 14183

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE,  
PART II, CHAPTER 25, SECTION 25-40, THREAT OF MASS  
VIOLENCE ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY OR AT CITY  
PROPERTY RELATED ACTIVITIES.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA,  
TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 25, be amended by adding a  
new Section 25-40, as follows:

**Sec. 25-40. Threats of mass violence on city owned property or at city property related  
activities.**

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) “Mass violence” means any act which a reasonable person would conclude could lead to the serious bodily injury, as defined under Tennessee law, or the death of two (2) or more persons;
  - (2) “Means of communication” means direct and indirect verbal, written, or electronic communications, including graffiti, pictures, diagrams, telephone calls, voice over internet protocol calls, video messages, voice mails, electronic mail, social media posts, instant messages, chat group posts, text messages, and any other recognized means of conveying information; and
  - (3) “City owned properties” means any City building or bus, community center campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by the City for the administration of any community activities.
- (b) A person who recklessly, by any means of communication, threatens to commit an act of mass violence on any city building or property or at a city community activity shall be banned from attending further city property events for a period of time by the Mayor or the Administrator after an opportunity to attend a due process hearing and such person may be subject to civil penalties as may be imposed by the City Court Judge and/or the Juvenile Court Judge, in the event that the person is a minor.

- (c)
  - (1) Any person who has knowledge of a threat of mass violence on city owned property or at a city property related activity shall report the threat immediately to emergency personnel with jurisdiction in the City.
  - (2) The report must include, to the extent known by the reporter, the nature of the threat of mass violence, the name and address of the person making the threat, the facts requiring the report, and any other pertinent information.
  - (3) Any person who has knowledge of the threat of mass violence on city owned property or at a city property related activity and knowingly fails to report the threat shall be in violation of Tennessee law and this Ordinance, subject to civil penalties imposed by the City Court Judge and/or the Juvenile Court Judge, in the event that the person is a minor, and adjudicated delinquent.
- (d) In addition to any other civil penalties authorized by law, the City Court Judge and/or the Juvenile Court Judge may order a person in violation under subsection (b) to pay restitution, including costs and damages resulting from the disruption of the normal activity that would have otherwise occurred on the city owned property or at the city property related activity, but for the threat to commit an act of mass violence.
- (e) If a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent for a violation of subsection (b) pursuant to Tennessee law at title 37, chapter 1, part 1, then the disposition of the juvenile court may include, in addition to any other disposition authorized by law, the suspension of the juvenile's driving privileges or ability to obtain a driver license for a period of one (1) year in accordance with the procedure set out in title 55, chapter 10, part 7.
- (f) City departments shall develop policies and procedures to report and resolve violence and credible threats to employee safety on city owned properties and each department head shall designate employees responsible for reporting incidents involving violent threats to law enforcement and to the Mayor. Such policies and procedures adopted by each city department shall be reviewed annually by Human Resources and reported to the Council.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect two  
(2) weeks from and after its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: January 14, 2025

  
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CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED:  DISAPPROVED:

  
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MAYOR

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