

First Reading: September 16, 2025
Second Reading: September 23, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 14279

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 2, BY REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 13909, ARTICLE XII, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 13874, ARTICLE XVI IN LIEU THEREOF, AND FURTHER AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 16-64, AND CHAPTER 31, SECTION 31-361 TO COMPLY WITH PUBLIC CHAPTER PC494 AND PUBLIC CHAPTER PC458.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 2 be amended by repealing Ordinance No. 13909, Article XII, and amending Ordinance 13874, Article XVI in lieu thereof as follows:

ARTICLE XII

Sec. 2-711. Repealed.

Sec. 2-712. Repealed.

Sec. 2-713. Repealed

Sec. 2-714. Repealed

Sec. 2-715. Repealed

Sec. 2-716. Repealed

Sec. 2-717. Repealed

Sec. 2-718. Repealed

Sec. 2-719. Repealed

ARTICLE XVI

Sec. 2-790. Created; purpose.

There be and is hereby created and established the Department of Community Development. This department will manage the City of Chattanooga Code Enforcement Division, the City of Chattanooga Community Centers, Community Engagement, Community Programming and Activities, the Office of Community Health and the Community Safety & Gun Violence Prevention Division, and the Office of Family Empowerment.

Sec. 2-791. Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board—Created; function; composition.

- (a) As part of the Department of Community Development, there is hereby created the Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board (the "Board"). Pursuant to the Community Services Block Grant Act, 42 USC § 9910(b), the Office of Family Empowerment shall administer the community services block grant ("CSGB") program through the Board which will fully participate in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the CSGB program to serve low-income communities.
- (b) The Board shall be composed of nine (9) members. Three (3) members shall be recommended and voted for by appointment, by the Board, from among the City's economically, disadvantaged communities and approved by a majority of the City Council. Two (2) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Chattanooga and approved by a majority of the City Council. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Mayor of Hamilton County. Three (3) members shall be recommended for appointment, by Office of Family Empowerment leadership, from among major community partners and approved by a majority of the City Council.
- (c) At least one third of the members shall be democratically selected representatives of the low-income community; one-third of the members shall be local elected officials (or their representatives); and the remaining members shall be from major groups and interests in the community. At any meeting of this Board five (5) members shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

Sec. 2-792. Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board—Terms; vacancies.

The terms of the members of the Head Start Governing Board shall be for two (2) years. Initially, the members of the Board shall be appointed so that they hold office for staggered terms. The three (3) members recommended and appointed by the Board and the one (1) County Mayor appointment shall be initially appointed for one (1) year terms. The three (3) members recommended by OFE leadership, and the two (2) City Mayor appointments shall be initially appointed for two (2) year terms. Upon the expiration of the term of any appointed member, a successor shall serve a term of two (2) years. The failure of any member to attend two (2) consecutive meetings or three (3) meetings within any calendar year shall be the basis for removal by the City Mayor and reappointment of another member by the City Mayor, subject to the confirmation of a majority of the City Council. Should any vacancy occur on the Board by death, resignation, or removal of a member, the member's unexpired term shall be filled by appointment of an individual in the same manner as the vacating member was appointed, if possible. No member, other than an elected official or his designee, may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms on the Board.

Sec. 2-793. Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board—Limited scope of Board function.

The advisory responsibilities of the Board shall be limited to the City of Chattanooga Office of Family Empowerment programs only. The Board shall not have any governance, administrative, nor operational authority over the Department of Community Development, including the Office of Family Empowerment, its administrator, directors, managers, or staff. All administrative and operational authority over the Department of Community Development shall be vested in the City Mayor and in the administrator of the department, as set forth in Sec. 2-795 below, and her or his executive leadership team.

Sec. 2-794. Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board—Bylaws; officers; executive committee.

The Office of Family Empowerment Advisory Board shall adopt and may amend bylaws for the regulation of its meetings and proceedings. It shall also elect as officers, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary, who will serve as the executive committee for the Board.

Sec. 2-795. Administrator.

There shall be an administrator of the Department of Community Development who shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Chattanooga subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council. If the administrator position becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by the Mayor of the City of Chattanooga and be subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council.

Sec. 2-796. Administrative control of department; powers of mayor, administrator.

The City Mayor and the administrator of the Department of Community Development shall have respective levels of administrative authority over the Department of Community Development. The City Mayor shall be empowered to employ, discharge, or suspend the administrator of the department subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council. The administrator shall be empowered to employ, discharge, or suspend all other employees of the department subject to confirmation of the mayor and city council.

Sec. 2-797. Financial affairs; receipts and disbursements.

All fiscal and financial affairs of the Department of Community Development shall be conducted by the city finance officer. All receipts and disbursements shall be handled in accordance with the applicable provisions of the charter and ordinances of the city.

Sec. 2-798. Office of Community Engagement - Purpose; functions.

The Office of Community Engagement will work to remove City wide barriers that inhibit personal and communal financial stability and growth, hinder professional/career opportunities and advancement, and impede social inclusion and well-being. OCE will aim to connect Chattanooga residents to economic, educational, and civic resources, influence local policy, and promote advocacy. At its core, ECE will serve as a bridge that connects people to resources, support, information, and community. The function and focus area of OCE is as follows:

Community Engagement will lead community engagement efforts for the City of Chattanooga that are fair and effective. Community Engagement will collaborate with different groups of local neighborhood leaders, non-profit organizations, faith leaders, advocates, organizers, and Chattanooga residents to elevate the voices and participation of our entire community. Such collaborations will assist Community Engagement in building trust through strong relationships and partnerships with community members and influencers, nonprofit partners, faith leaders, and industry partners, and facilitate authentic community engagement to meaningfully involve all Chattanooga residents in decisions that affect their lives and communities.

Sec. 2-799. Office of Community Engagement board—created; function; composition.

- (a) As part of the Office of Community Engagement, there is hereby created the Community Engagement Board (the "Board"). This Board shall advise, promote, and advocate for the various initiatives, projects, and goals of OCE.
- (b) The Board shall be composed of no more than fifteen (15) members. The Mayor of the City of Chattanooga (also referred to herein as the "Mayor") shall appoint at least four (4) members to the Board and each member of the City Council shall appoint one (1) member to the Board. Prospective members who are appointed by City Council shall live in the district of the Council member who appointed them. The prospective Board members appointed by the Mayor and by each City Council member shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council.
- (c) Board members shall have experience being actively engaged in the Chattanooga community and/or a strong interest in advocating on behalf of all demographics of Chattanooga residents. Members shall be committed to assisting OCE fulfill its goals of working towards building a prosperous community for all Chattanooga residents.

Sec. 2-800. Same—Terms; vacancies.

The terms of the members of the Board shall be for three (3) years. Initially, the members of the Board shall be appointed so that they hold office for staggered terms. The members appointed from City Council districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9, and at least two (2) of the Mayor appointments shall be initially appointed for one (1) year terms. The members appointed from City Council districts 2, 4, 6, and 8, and at least two (2) of the Mayor appointments shall be initially appointed for two (2) year terms. Upon the expiration of the term of any appointed member, a successor shall serve a term of three (3) years. The failure of any member to attend two (2) consecutive meetings or three (3) meetings within any calendar year shall be the basis for removal by the Mayor and reappointment of another member by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of a majority of the City Council.

Should any vacancy occur on the Board by death, resignation, or removal of a member, the member's unexpired term shall be filled by appointment of a member residing in the same district as the member vacating the Board, if possible. No member may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms on the Board.

Sec. 2-801. Same—Limited scope of Board function.

The advisory responsibilities of the Board shall be limited to the City of Chattanooga Office of Community Engagement programs and initiatives only. The Board shall not have any governance, administrative, nor operational authority over the Office of Community Engagement.

Sec. 2-802. Same—Bylaws; officers; executive committee.

The Community Engagement Board shall adopt and may amend bylaws for the regulation of its meetings and proceedings. It shall also elect as officers, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary, who will serve as the executive committee for the Board.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 16, Section 16-64(c) be amended by deleting only this subsection in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subsections.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 31, Section 31-361(1) be amended as follows:

1. The nine (9) members of the Board shall initially be appointed by the Mayor for staggered terms of one (1) to three (3) years, subject to the approval of the City Council, with terms, after the initial appointments being for three (3) years. Members shall serve until replaced, reappointed, or resign. The Mayor shall appoint members with the following qualifications: environmental engineer or environmental scientist or educator; a representative of an industrial or commercial establishment that is regulated by this Article; two (2) representatives of neighborhood groups; a representative of the development community; a representative of an environmental interest or environmental organization; and a representative of the contractor community. The remaining two (2) members shall not have any particular qualifications. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and the City Council. In the event of a vacancy, the Mayor shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term, subject to approval by the City Council.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Office of New Chattanoogaans, to be staffed by the Director New Chattanoogaans, is created in the Department of the Executive Branch.

SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That Ordinance No. 14239, also known as The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operations Budget, is hereby amended (i) to reallocate to the Department of

the Executive Branch funds appropriated to the Department of Equity & Community Engagement for the Director New Americans in order to fund the position of Director New Chattanoogaans; and (ii) to reallocate to the Department of Community Development all other funds appropriated to the Department of Equity & Community Engagement.

SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect two (2) weeks from and after its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: September 23, 2025


CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: ☒ DISAPPROVED: ☐


MAYOR

/mem/v4