

**CIVIL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA REGARDING TEMPORARY RELIEF  
FROM SIGNAGE ORDINANCES FOR THE NORTH SHORE BUSINESS DISTRICT**

No.2026-02

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8.28 of the City Charter, the Mayor is authorized to supervise and control all divisions of the city, except as otherwise provided to see that the ordinances and the provisions of the Charter and State law are observed; and

WHEREAS, the temporary closure of the Walnut Street Bridge has significantly altered traditional foot traffic patterns, creating unforeseen challenges for small businesses located on and around River Street; and

WHEREAS, the Walnut Street Bridge serves as a vital pedestrian artery and economic connector between Downtown Chattanooga and the North Shore district; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga and the Office of the Mayor are committed to the vitality of our local small business community and recognize their role as the backbone of our city's economy; and

WHEREAS, current city sign ordinances may limit the ability of these businesses to effectively signal their operations and accessibility to redirected patrons during this period of infrastructure maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM KELLY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, by virtue of the power vested in me, do hereby declare that a local civil emergency exists regarding signage and visibility for businesses to direct citizens to their businesses during this period of infrastructure maintenance on the Walnut Street Bridge as a vital pedestrian artery and order the following:

1. Temporary Suspension of Ordinance

The City of Chattanooga Land Development Office employees shall temporarily refrain from the enforcement of specific provisions of the City Sign Ordinance as they pertain to portable signage for licensed businesses located within the 100-300 blocks of River Street by allowing 1 sandwich board style sign (A-Frame) to be placed within 250 feet of their business.

2. Permitted Signage Standards

During the effective period of this Order, eligible businesses are permitted one (1) sandwich board style sign (A-frame), provided the following conditions are met:

- Dimensions: The sign must adhere to all existing city size specifications for portable signs.

- Placement: The sign must be placed in a manner that maintains a clear, unobstructed path for pedestrian travel and complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards
- Duration: Signs may only be displayed during the business's hours of operation and must be removed from the right-of-way daily upon closing.

### 3. Jurisdiction and Safety

This order does not waive any safety regulations. Signs must not obstruct the sightlines of motorists or interfere with public safety equipment. The Land Development Office and the City of Chattanooga maintain the right to request the relocation of any sign deemed a safety hazard.

### 4. Effective Date and Term

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until Walnut Street Bridge is fully reopened to pedestrian traffic, or until otherwise rescinded by a subsequent order.

A determination that any provision of this Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Order. The remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. Any invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary for enforceability.

5. This Order shall be effective at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 3, 2026, and shall remain in effect until withdrawn or extended pursuant to Tennessee law.

6. PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. § 38-9-103 the duration of this Civil Emergency Proclamation and Executive Order is limited to fifteen (15) days initially and may be extended, as necessary, to any additional fifteen (15)-day increments. To the extent that this Order conflicts with any prior Orders by my office this Order shall control.

Issued this 2nd day of April 2026, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 38-9-101, et seq. and 58-2-104 and 58-2-110 (3) by the Mayor of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee.



---

**TIM KELLY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA**