



**Camping On Public Property Prohibited
&
Defecating Upon Public Or Private Property
Prohibited**



Objectives

- **Discuss the proposed ordinances**
- **Camping on public property prohibited - 5.20.010**
- **Defecating upon public or private property prohibited - 5.68.165**



History:

- There has been an increase in camping and defecating complaints throughout the City of Wichita. Complaints have been documented by the WPD.
- City Council along with other city departments continue to receive complaints in regards to camping on public property. Concerns include:
 - Damage to public property
 - Health concerns for city staff and citizens
 - Environmental concerns
 - Economic impact for city and private business



History continued:

- Complaint locations have included:
 - public property around businesses
 - community events/special events
 - libraries and parks
 - river banks & bridges
 - alleys and sidewalks
- WPD has made attempts to address issues and concerns, however stakeholders expressed the need for a camping ordinance.



Community Support & Stakeholder Partnerships:

•The camping ordinance was endorsed by Union Rescue Mission, Wichita Downtown Development Corp., Old Town Association, Fidelity Bank, Wichita Public Library Board of Directors, Wichita Homeless Service Coalition, Mosaic Homeless Shelter, KDOC and many other organizations.





The purpose of these ordinances are to:

- Encourage a healthy safety standard for all citizens
- Promote healthy behaviors for campers
- Improve the quality of life of our citizens
- Keep Wichita a beautiful place to live, work and play



Camping on public property prohibited:

- Preamble: sets forth the interest of the city in enacting the ordinance and clearly states that there is no intent to punish any citizen based upon status alone.
- Public property only.
- Terms “to camp, campsite and camp paraphernalia” are clearly defined to ensure effective enforcement.



Camping on public property prohibited:

- Exemption provided for temporary camping permit issued through the city manager's office for special events.
- Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor offense with fines up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to 30 days. An individual who is considered "indigent" can be given 10 to 40 hours of community service in lieu of a fine or jail time.



Defecating upon public or private property prohibited:

- Public property.
- Private property open to the view of others.
- When not designated as a restroom.
- Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor offense with fines up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to 30 days. An individual who is considered “indigent” can be given 10 to 40 hours of community service in lieu of a fine or jail time.



Police Involvement: safeguarding our vulnerable residents

- WPD Policy 503: Homeless Outreach Team & H.O.T Officers.
- Cities with similar issues have utilized the combination of H.O.T teams in conjunction with a camping ordinance. These cities have successfully addressed community concerns while avoiding litigation.





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Questions?