

ORDINANCE NO.: 5253

AN AMENDED ORDINANCE to amend Subsection 32-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding camping on City-owned property.

THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of La Crosse do ordain as follows:

SECTION I: Subsection 32-5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

"To camp" or "camping" means to set up or to remain in or at a campsite, including the storage of personal belongings or camping materials.

"Campsite" means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire, is placed, established, maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof.

"Camping Materials" means, but is not limited to, tents, tarps, umbrellas, metal sheeting, pallets, canopies, hammock, hunting blind, boxes, huts, temporary shelters, or vehicles.

"To store" or "storage" means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, to place or leave in a location.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp as defined herein on **city park property and public parking ramp property** or in areas of City-owned property prohibited by the Board of Public Works, except as expressly authorized by Municipal Code or by declaration of the Mayor or Common Council in emergency or other special circumstances where signs prohibit it or upon receiving a warning to leave. Camping means to establish or maintain at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking or sleeping with the intent to remain in that location overnight.
- (b) The Board of Public Works of the City of La Crosse may from time to time, in order to ensure the public health and safety as well as the preservation of the City's lands or recreational areas, establish areas of City-owned property upon which camping is prohibited. Such prohibited areas shall be posted on the City website and may be identified by "no camping" signs. Such areas shall be designated by "no camping" Signs must be at least 11 inches square and must be placed in at least two conspicuous places of the area prohibiting camping.
- (c) No person shall be cited for violating this subsection section unless such person shall continue to camp more than one hour after receiving a warning to leave. Such warning shall be given by a police officer or other authorized City officer or employee. If signs are not posted and a person receives a warning to leave, they shall not be cited for violating this section unless such person continues to camp more than one hour after receiving

~~the warning to leave. Such warning shall be given by a police officer or other authorized City officer or employee.~~

SECTION II: Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this division shall not be affected.

SECTION III: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

_____/s/_____
Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

_____/s/_____
Nikki M. Elsen, City Clerk

Passed: 7/13/2023
Approved: 7/18/2023
Published: 7/22/2023