

1 **Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by**
2 **Amending Chapter 24, Offenses - Miscellaneous, Article I, In General, Section 24-**
3 **50, to prohibit camping and storage on public property.**

4
5 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, that Section 24-
6 50 of Article I, Chapter 24 of the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia be amended
7 to read as follows:

8
9 **Chapter 24 – OFFENSES - MISCELLANEOUS**

10
11 **ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL**

12
13 **Secs. 24-50. – Reserved.** *Unlawful public camping and storage.*

14
15 *(a) It is unlawful for any person or persons to camp, lay or sleep, or store items on,*
16 *upon, or about any public property at any time. This section's regulations are not*
17 *intended to regulate activities on property that is privately owned.*

18
19 *(b) Definitions. The following definitions apply for the purpose of this section.*

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21 ***Camp** means to reside or sleep on public property with or without the use of*
22 *tents, temporary shelters, vehicles or equivalents, or as evidenced by the use of*
23 *beds, blankets, cots, hammocks, mattresses, sleeping bags, tarpaulins or*
24 *equivalents, or cooking tools or fire. Camp shall not mean the authorized use of*
25 *a governmental entity's public property, including the use of public beaches*
26 *during the hours that they are open to the public.*

27
28 ***Public Property** means any and all property in which the City of Hampton, or*
29 *another governmental entity, has a property interest (i.e. control, easement,*
30 *lease, ownership, possessory interest, or rental), including, without limitation,*
31 *beaches, parks, open spaces, public sidewalks and streets, public facilities,*
32 *public buildings, public schools and associated athletic facilities, roads, and*
33 *parking lots.*

34
35 ***Store** means, without limitation, accumulating, keeping, leaving, or maintaining*
36 *personal property on public property for future use or safekeeping. Store or*
37 *Storage shall not mean the authorized storage of personal property on a*
38 *governmental entity's public property, or unoccupied vehicles lawfully parked on*
39 *a public street.*

40
41 *(c) Property which is stored on public property in violation of this section, and which*
42 *is unattended, may be immediately seized by City staff or contractors. Such*
43 *property shall be stored by the City for 30 days. City staff or contractors seizing*
44 *the property will take reasonable steps to leave or provide notice that the*
45 *property has been seized. Individuals may contact the City to determine if an*
46 *item of theirs is being temporarily stored by the City. Items that staff determine*

47 *to be trash, garbage, debris, unsanitary or hazardous, to include any weapons,*
48 *may be disposed of immediately.*

49
50 (d) *The City Manager or their designee(s) may adopt administrative policies and*
51 *procedures for implementing this section.*

52
53 (e) *Any violation of this section shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor. Prior to charging*
54 *any person under this section, such person shall be given a verbal warning to*
55 *cease such activity and reasonable time to comply with such warning, as well*
56 *as information on alternative accommodations such as available homeless*
57 *shelters or hotels, and public and charitable programs that offer housing*
58 *assistance.*