

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE XIII, CHAPTER 130 OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO HATE CRIMES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Camden, South Carolina (the “*City*”) was created as a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina (the “*State*”) and is authorized, pursuant to Section 5-7-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, to enact ordinances that are “necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the municipality...”; and

WHEREAS, the residents and visitors of the City are a diverse collection of individuals representing a variety of races, colors, creeds, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, physical and mental disabilities, and national origins, all of whom the City values and wishes to protect; and

WHEREAS, crimes that are motivated by bias or hate towards any person or persons, in whole or in part, because of the actual or perceived of races, colors, creeds, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, physical and mental disabilities, and national origins of any person (“*Hate Crimes*”) are an affront to the commonly held values of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the State has yet to adopt statewide Hate Crime legislation and is one of only 2 states in the country who have yet to adopt such protections for its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the Camden Code of Ordinances (the “*City Code*”) to protect its residents and visitors and deter Hate Crimes and provide appropriate penalties in addition to the punishment for the underlying violation of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Camden (the “*City Council*”), the governing body of the City, has determined that it in the best interest of the City and public to enact a new Section 130.08 of the City Code titled “Hate Intimidation.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BEING DULY ASSEMBLED, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council ratifies and approves the findings of fact recited above.

Section 2. By and through the enactment of this Ordinance, Title XIII, Chapter 130 of the City of Camden, South Carolina, Code of Ordinances shall be amended to add Section 130.08 to read as follows:

Section 130.08 – Hate Intimidation

- (a) A person who violates another section of this chapter with the intent to intimidate another person or persons, in whole or in part, because of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical and mental disability, or national origin of the other person or persons, including any act of antisemitism, is also guilty of the separate offense of hate intimidation and shall be punished as provided by subsection (c) of this section. For purposes of this section, “antisemitism” refers to the definition set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (“IHRA”).
- (b) A person who violates this section shall be punished as provided in Section 130.99.

Section 3. The amendments provided in Section 1 above shall be effective upon the due enactment of this Ordinance.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held or determined to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Nothing in this Ordinance hereby enacted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding impending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause of action acquired or existing, under any act or ordinance hereby repealed; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

Section 6. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment by the Council.

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DONE AND ORDAINED IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, this 24 day of SEPT
2024.

CITY OF CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

By: Alfred Mae Drakeford
Alfred Mae Drakeford, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest:

By: Brenda Davis

Brenda Davis, City Clerk
City of Camden, South Carolina

First Reading:
Second Reading: