

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-6

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE CITY CODE TO REGULATE TARGETED RESIDENTIAL PICKETING

The City Council of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 12 of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting those words that are contained in brackets and ~~[stricken through]~~ and adding those words that are underlined, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 12: PUBLIC PEACE AND SAFETY

ARTICLE VII: TARGETED RESIDENTIAL PICKETING

§ 12.145 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

The City Council finds that:

- (a) The city of Bloomington has an interest in safeguarding the right of its residents to enjoy, in their home and dwelling, a feeling of well-being, tranquility, and privacy; and
- (b) Targeted residential picketing in front of or about a residential dwelling causes emotional distress to the dwelling occupants, obstructs and interferes with the free use of public rights-of-way and has as its object the harassment of the dwelling occupants; and
- (c) Without resorting to targeted residential picketing, ample opportunities exist for those otherwise engaged in targeted residential picketing to exercise constitutionally protected freedom of speech and expression; and
- (d) The protection and preservation of the home is the keystone of democratic government; the public health and welfare and the good order of the community require that members of the community enjoy, in their homes and dwellings, a feeling of wellbeing, tranquility and privacy and, when absent from their homes and dwellings, carry with them the sense of security inherent in the assurance that they may return to the enjoyment of their homes and dwellings; the practice of picketing before or about residences and dwellings causes emotional disturbance and distress to the occupants, obstructs and interferes with the free use of public sidewalks and public ways of travel; such practice has as its object the harassing of such occupants and, without resort to such practice, full opportunity exists, and under the terms and provisions of this section, will continue to exist for the exercise of freedom of speech and their constitutional rights; and that the provisions hereinafter enacted are necessary for the public interest to avoid the detrimental results herein set forth.

§ 12.146 DEFINITIONS.

When used in this Article, the following words, terms, and phrases shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

TARGETED RESIDENTIAL PICKETING. (a) marching, standing, patrolling or other similar activities by one or more persons directed at a particular residential dwelling in a manner that adversely affects the safety, security, or privacy of an occupant of the dwelling; or (b) marching, standing, patrolling or other similar activities by one or more persons which prevents or hinders an occupant of a residential dwelling from gaining access to or exiting from the property on which the residential dwelling is located.

§ 12.147 PROHIBITION. No person shall engage in targeted residential picketing within the city.

§ 12.148 PENALTY. Every person convicted of a violation of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 12.149 SEVERABILITY. Should any section, subdivision, clause, or other provision of this Article be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Article as a whole, or of any part thereof, other than the part held to be invalid.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

Passed and adopted this 7th day of February, 2022.

/s/ Tim Busse
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Matt Brillhart
Secretary to the Council

APPROVED:

/s/ Melissa J. Manderschied
City Attorney