

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-04-17**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS CAMPING; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES THEREOF FOR A VIOLATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Berkeley County Council, in a meeting duly assembled,

That the Code of Ordinances, Berkeley County, South Carolina, is hereby amended by adding an Article, which shall read as follows:

**ARTICLE VII: CAMPING**

**Sec. 38-140. Purpose.**

It is necessary to protect the health and safety of those that camp in Berkeley County, as well as the public and private property of Berkeley County, from the destruction that accompanies camping. It is also in the best interest of Berkeley County that the degradation of public and private lands is prevented and that such lands are utilized for their intended purposes. The enactment of this ordinance is intended to impose reasonable regulations on camping in Berkeley County in furtherance of these purposes.

**Sec. 38-141. Definitions.**

As used in this Article the following terms shall have the definition below provided:

- (a) *Camping*: Residing in or using any public or private property for one or more nights for living accommodation purposes, such as sleeping activities or making preparations to sleep (including, but not limited to, the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping), storing personal belongings (including, but not limited to, clothing, sleeping bags, bed rolls, blankets, sheets, luggage, backpacks, kitchen utensils, cookware, and similar material), making any fire, using any tents, regularly cooking meals, or living in a parked vehicle. These activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears, considering all circumstances, that a person is using public or private property as a living accommodation for one or more nights, with intent to camp.

Certified True and Correct Copy of Original Record

  
Clerk to Council  
County Council Berkeley County SC

**Sec. 38-142. Camping on public property prohibited.**

Except as may be permitted within parks by Berkeley County, it is unlawful to camp upon any public property owned or maintained by Berkeley County, South Carolina including without limitation, streets, easements, parks, dump sites, creek beds, parking lots, or corporation yards. No person shall set up tents, shacks, house trailers, motor homes, campers, or any other temporary or permanent shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, nor shall any person leave in any such place any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such aforementioned purpose, to include but not limited to, a house trailer, tent, automobile, or the like.

**Sec. 38-143. Camping on private property prohibited; exceptions.**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful to camp or squat upon private property within Berkeley County, South Carolina. No person shall set up tents, shacks, campers, or any other temporary or permanent shelter for the purpose of overnight camping, nor shall any person leave upon any private property any moving structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such purpose, to include but not limited to, a house trailer, tent, automobile, or the like.
- (b) *Exceptions:* The prohibition set forth in this section shall not apply to:
1. Persons camping on their own land, persons camping with the owner of the land, or to persons camping with the written consent of the owner of the land provided that such written consent is in their possession at the time and is shown upon demand of any peace officer, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office deputy, Berkeley County code enforcement officer, and provided that all other Berkeley County zoning ordinances and South Carolina laws and regulations are met;
  2. Persons lawfully camping within campgrounds or trailer parks specifically designated or approved for such purpose pursuant to Berkeley County zoning ordinances.

**Sec. 38-144. Penalties.**

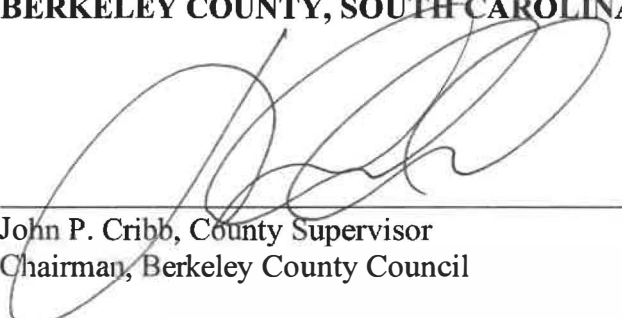
Any person violating such provisions of sections of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and imprisonment not exceeding 30 days. Court costs are not included in any fine imposed by the court.

**Secs. 145-149. Reserved.**

ADOPTED this 28th day of April 2025.

[SEAL]

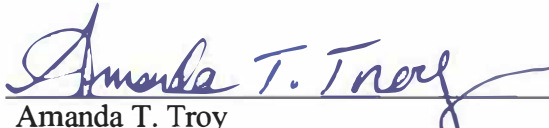
**BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



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John P. Cribb, County Supervisor  
Chairman, Berkeley County Council


Attest:



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Amanda T. Troy  
Clerk to Berkeley County Council

Approved as to form:



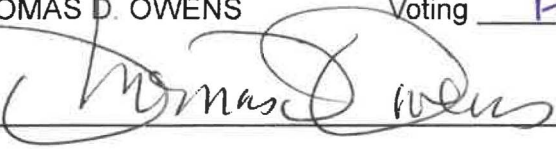
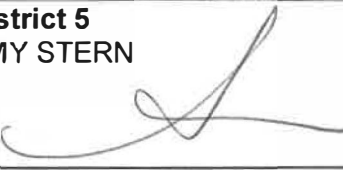



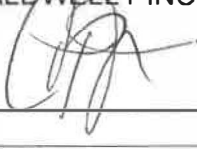

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John O. Williams, II  
Berkeley County Attorney

First Reading:	February 25, 2025
Second Reading:	March 24, 2025
Public Hearing:	April 28, 2025
Third Reading:	April 28, 2025

**Bill No. 25-06, An Ordinance to Address Camping;  
to provide for Penalties thereof for a violation; and other matters related thereto (BCSO)**

**MEMBERS OF BERKELEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>District 1</b> THOMAS D. OWENS  Voting <u>Aye</u>	<b>District 5</b> AMY STERN  Voting <u>Aye</u>
<b>District 2</b> JARROD BROOKS  Voting <u>Aye</u>	<b>District 6</b> MARSHALL WEST  Voting <u>Aye</u>
<b>District 3</b> PHILLIP OBIE, II  Voting <u>Aye</u>	<b>District 7</b> CALDWELL PINCKNEY, JR.  Voting <u>Aye</u>
<b>District 4</b> JOE T. NEWELL  Voting <u>Aye</u>	<b>District 8</b> STEVE C. DAVIS Absent Voting <u>N/A</u>