

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: CAMPING PROHIBITED



Amendment / Addition to Municipal Ordinances in City Code

Councilman Dave Donelson

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Colorado Springs Police Department

CURRENT PRACTICE



CSPD HOT/DART Team works to prevent unlawful camping through multiple avenues:

- Collaborating with Community Partners to Identify Areas of Need.
- Posting Unlawful Camps and Giving Warnings.
- Offering Outreach Resources.
- Coordinating Camp Clean-Ups.
- Issuing Citations.

CURRENT PRACTICE



CAMPING CITATIONS UNDER MULTIPLE SECTIONS:

CSPD officers investigating unlawful camping in the City:

- Depending upon the location of the violation, cite the violator into Municipal Court for:
 - Camping in Parks Prohibited, 9.9.404;
 - Camping on Public Property Prohibited, 9.9.110;
 - Camping Within Public Stream, 9.6.111; or
 - Trespass, 9.6.102.
- At some locations, a mere 300' separates which charge is cited. Examples: I-25 and Bijou area and I-25 and the MLK bypass area.
- Some campers may be cited into El Paso County Combined Court if state-specific charges accompany camping activities.

CURRENT VIOLATION INFORMATION



Current Numbers	August 2025	2025 YTD
Camp Cleanups Requested	169	1155
Camps Posted	171	1717
Warnings Given (FIRs)	170	565
Outreach Services Offered	58	766
Persons Engaged in SRC Programming from Contacts	4	76
Outreach Services Rejected	44	467
Camping Restrictions Parks Summons Issued	6	103
Camping on Public Property Summons Issued	37	327
Stream Camping Summons Issued	15	227
Trespass (Camping Private Property) Summons Issued	51	483
Unlawful Fire Summons Issued	1	26
Misdemeanor / Felony Warrants Addressed	159	2438
Vehicle Camps Contacted	7	95

ADDITIONAL DATA



CPSD Outreach Efforts

- Outreach Resources Offered by CSPD =
 - 58 for month of August
 - 766 through August 2025
- Outreach Declined =
 - 44 for month of August
 - 467 through August 2025
- Approximately 75% of those contacted by CSPD declined services in August; 61% declined services thus far this year.

Court Outreach Efforts

- Outreach Table – Navigators on site 3 days / week
 - 227 people totaling 594 municipal court cases have been seen this year through September. 124 VI-SPDATs completed.
 - The same period of 2024 saw 274 people totaling 568 cases. 140 VI-SPDATs completed.
- Jail Outreach
 - New effort, 47 people contacted over a two-month period.
- Outreach Program Opportunities
- ID Vouchers – 16 issued for 2025 so far (grant-funded).

PROPOSED ORDINANCE



City Code	Summary
§ 9.6.110: Camping Prohibited	Amend existing municipal Camping on Public Prohibited ordinance to Camping Prohibited. All camping prohibitions will be within one City Code section, and this section will provide more robust definitions to better explain camping activities.
§ 9.6.110(C)(3)	Creates new municipal law violation for camping within a vehicle for more than twenty-four (24) hours in the same location or within one thousand feet (1000') of that location.

MAJOR CHANGES



- Consolidates all camping violations into one Code section
- Improves definitions
- Penalties become consistent for all camping violations
- Park Camping is absorbed into Camping on Public Property
- Adds a legislative declaration and severability clause
- Clarifies permission to camp is an affirmative defense to all camping violations.
- Adds Vehicle Camping

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES REQUESTED?



- Simplicity
- Improves Citizen Understanding
- Efficiency for Law Enforcement
- Fairness in Uniform Penalties
- Vehicle Camping at Councilman Donelson's Request

IMPLEMENTATION



- Except Vehicle Camping, these offenses are already violations of our City Code.
- Violators will be cited into Municipal Court for violations, unless other violations prevent municipal prosecution.
- Current CSPD HOT/DART policies and procedures and the City Attorney's Office prosecution guidelines will apply.
- No significant increase in case volume anticipated.

COUNCIL ACTIONS



- Approve the ordinance as presented
- Amend the proposed ordinance
- Decline to adopt the ordinance