

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

ORDINANCE NO. 894-2015

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICULAR INTERFERENCE WITHIN THE CITY BY ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 10.20 GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICULAR INTERFERENCE" PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, pedestrian or vehicular interference as defined herein interferes with the free and safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles using city streets, sidewalks and other public places; and

WHEREAS, the city council finds it necessary to prevent intimidation and aggressive behavior in public areas; and

WHEREAS, it would promote the public health, safety and welfare of the community to regulate pedestrian or vehicular interference as defined herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 10.20 Granite Falls Municipal Code entitled "Pedestrian or Vehicular Interference" is hereby enacted reading as follows:

10.20.010 Purpose.

10.20.020 Definitions.

10.20.030 Pedestrian or vehicular interference

10.20.040 Penalty.

10.20.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate and punish intentional acts of pedestrian or vehicular interference, as defined in this chapter, which the city council finds pose a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare.

10.20.020 Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this chapter:

A. "Aggressively panhandle" means to beg with the intent to intimidate another person into giving money or goods.

B. "Intimidate" means to intentionally engage in conduct which would make a reasonable person fearful or feel compelled.

C. "Obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic" means to intentionally walk, stand, sit, lie, or place an object in such a manner as to block passage by another person or a vehicle, or to intentionally require another person or a driver of a vehicle to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Acts authorized as an exercise of one's constitutional right to picket or to legally protest, and acts authorized by a permit issued pursuant to chapter 19.04 (Special Use Permit) or 5.36 (Special Event) of this code, shall not constitute pedestrian or vehicular interference.

D. "Public place" means an area generally visible to public view and includes alleys, bridges, buildings, driveways, parking lots, parks, plazas, sidewalks and streets open to the general public, including those that serve food or drink or provide entertainment, and the doorways and entrances to buildings or dwellings and the grounds enclosing them.

10.20.030 Pedestrian or vehicular interference prohibited.

A person is guilty of pedestrian or vehicular interference if, in a public place, he or she intentionally:

- A. Intentionally obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or
- B. Aggressively panhandles.

10.20.040 Penalty.

Pedestrian or vehicular interference is a misdemeanor. Any person convicted of pedestrian or vehicular interference shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or by imprisonment and jail for not more than 90 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 2 If any section of this Ordinance, or if any part of Chapter 10.20 adopted hereby is declared unlawful or unenforceable, the remainder of this Ordinance and said Chapter shall remain in full force and effect.


Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after publication.

Said Ordinance was passed in open session by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls on the 6th day of May, 2015 and signed in authentication of its passage this 11th day of may 2015.



Joshua Golston Mayor

ATTEST:



Darla Reese, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Grant K. Wesel for

Thomas H. Graafstra, City Attorney

Date of Publication: May 9, 2015

Effective Date: May 14, 2015