ORDINANCE NO.: 2004-085

Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina,
Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV,
Offenses Against the Public Peace and Order, Sec. 14-97, Loitering

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 8th day of September, 2004, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of The City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV, Offenses Against the Public Peace and Order, Sec. 14-97, Loitering, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-97. Loitering.

(a)   *Definition.* As used in this section, the term "loitering" shall mean remaining idle in essentially one location, spending time idly, loafing or walking around aimlessly in a public place in such a manner as to:

(1)   Create or cause to be created a disturbance or annoyance that would be unreasonable to a person of ordinary sensibilities;

(2)   Create or cause to be created a danger of a breach of the peace;

(3)   Obstruct or hinder the free passage of vehicles or pedestrians;

(4)   Obstruct or interfere with any person lawfully in any public place;

(5)   Engage in begging;

(6)   Engage in gambling;

(7)   Engage in prostitution;

(8)   Solicit or engage in any business, trade or commercial transaction unless specifically authorized or licensed to do so;

(9)   Unlawfully use or possess an unlawful drug; or

(10)   Unlawfully use or possess alcoholic beverages, beer or wine.

(b)   *Violations.* Any person loitering in any public place as defined in subsection (a) of this section may be ordered by any police officer to leave that place. Any person who shall refuse to leave after being ordered to do so by a police officer shall be guilty of a violation of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed or enforced in such a manner as to restrict freedom of speech, religion or association.

Requested by:

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Approved by:

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City Manager

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney

MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

Introduced: 9/1/2004
Final Reading: 9/8/2004

Last Revised: 8/17/2004

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