

LOCAL LAW NO. _____ OF 2024

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 188, § 188-17 (INTERFERENCE WITH CITY OFFICERS) OF THE HUDSON CITY CODE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUDSON AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. TITLE This Local Law shall be known as Local Law No. L for the year 2024.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

Certain City departments, including the Department of Code Enforcement, have expressed concerns that staff have recently been subjected to increasing levels of harassment by members of the public. Although harassment is generally prohibited by State law, this local law makes such conduct criminal.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The purpose of this legislation is to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, and to protect the general public by safeguarding City Officers and their staff from harassment for performing the duties of their job and make such conduct a class B misdemeanor. This law does not nor is it intended to alter or otherwise effect the right to freedom of speech or expression afforded under New York State or Federal law.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This local law is authorized by the Municipal Home Rule Law (Chapter 36-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York).

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.

Chapter 188 of the Hudson City Code is hereby AMENDED as follows:

A. Chapter 188, § 188-1 Definitions is hereby DELETED and REPLACED with:

§ 188-1 Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CITY

The City of Hudson, County of Columbia, New York

CITY OFFICER

A City Officer is any individual listed as an Officer under Article II § C2-1 and Article IV §§ C2-1 and C2-2 of the Charter of the City of Hudson.

CITY EMPLOYEE

Any person employed by the City and who is not a City Officer as defined in this Chapter.

PERSON

Any individual, corporation, association, organization, firm or partnership.

B. Chapter 188, § 188-17 is hereby DELETED and REPLACED with:

§ 188-17 Interference and Harassment of City Officer and City Employees.

A. Interference Prohibited. No person shall hinder, obstruct or interfere with any City officer in the performance of their duties, , nor shall any person knowingly resist, hinder, obstruct or interfere with any officer or person authorized by law in serving or attempting to serve any summons, writ, subpoena, order or other process, or when making an arrest.

B. Harassment Prohibited. A person is guilty of harassment of a City Officer or City Employee when, with intent to harass or alarm a City Officer or City Employee who is engaged in the performance of the official duties such person:

- (1) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise subjects a City Officer or City Employee to physical contact or attempts or threatens to do the same; or
- (2) Engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts which alarm or impede a City Officer or City Employee performing their duties and which serve no legitimate purpose. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to apply to activities which are regulated by the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, the Railway Labor Act, as amended, or the Federal Employment Labor Act, as amended.

C. In addition to the penalties set forth in § 188-28 of this Chapter, a violation of subsection B of this section shall be a class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined to its operation in said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Introduced _____

Approved _____

Seconded _____

By _____

Mayor