

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KYLE, TEXAS REGULATING SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY WITHIN THE CITY AND ESTABLISHING CHILD SAFETY ZONES; AMENDING CHAPTER 23 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES” BY ADDING ARTICLE XI TO BE ENTITLED “CHILD SAFETY ZONES”; MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENDERS TO RESIDE WITHIN 1500 FEET OF PREMISES WHERE CHILDREN COMMONLY GATHER; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE ORDINANCE; PROHIBITING PROPERTY OWNERS FROM RENTING REAL PROPERTY TO CERTAIN SEX OFFENDERS; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, FINDINGS OF FACT AND PROVIDING FOR OPEN MEETINGS.

WHEREAS, the City of Kyle, Texas (herein the “City”) is a home rule city having authority to utilize police power regulation for the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City is deeply concerned about the numerous and recent occurrences in our state and elsewhere whereby sex offenders convicted of sexual offenses involving children have been released from custody and repeat the unlawful acts for which they had been originally convicted; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds from evidence and statistical reports reveal that the recidivism rate for released sex offenders alarmingly high, especially for those who commit their crimes against children; and

WHEREAS, the City is becoming an increasingly attractive place for families with young children; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that regulating sex offender residency within the City and establishing child safety zones provide better protection for children gathering in the City and is necessary to protect the health, safety and general welfare of children; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas, including those found in Chapter 51 of the Texas Local Government Code and the City Charter, provide the City authority to adopt ordinances for the good government, peace, order and welfare of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KYLE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT. The above and foregoing recitals are hereby found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein as findings of fact.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 23. Chapter 23 of the Code of Ordinances of the City is hereby amended by adding Article XI. - Child Safety Zones to read as follows:

ARTICLE XI. - CHILD SAFETY ZONES

Sec. 23-290. - Definitions.

“*Child sex offender*” means a person who is required to register on the Texas Department of Public Safety's Sex Offender Database (the “database”) because of a conviction(s) involving a minor.

“*Day-care center*” is a facility providing care, training, education, custody, treatment, or supervision for 13 or more children for less than 24 hours a day.

“*Medical facility*” means a hospital or inpatient facility housing individuals who are incapable of caring for themselves and require assistance with activities of daily living.

“*Minor*” is a person under the age of 17.

“*Park*” is a parcel of land, community park, neighborhood park, playground, swimming pool, indoor facility, outdoor facility, recreation center, field, athletic field, hike and bike trails, greenbelt areas and any other area in the City-owned, leased and/or used by the City, and devoted to active or passive recreation, including any related facilities, parking lots and/or amenities, save and except any of the foregoing that has a stadium, arena and/or permanent seating and primarily used for sporting events, special events and/or other entertainment any of which is not managed by the City.

“*Permanent residence*” is a place where a person abides, lodges, or resides for 14 or more consecutive days.

“*Premises where children commonly gather*” means areas including all improved and unimproved lots where the following are located or planned to be located: a public park, private or public school (excluding in-home schools), day-care center, or private recreational facility, including a park, water park, pool, playground, skate park, arcade or youth athletic field owned by a residential property owners association, or for which an entrance, admission, or rental fee is charged.

“*Recurring visitor*” is a person who on at least three (3) occasions during any month spends more than 48 consecutive hours in the city.

“*Temporary residence*” is a place where a person abides, lodges, or resides for a period of 14 or more days in the aggregate during any calendar year and which is not the person's permanent address, or a place where a person routinely abides, resides, or lodges for a period of four or more consecutive or nonconsecutive days in any month and which is not the person's permanent residence.

Sec. 23.291. - Residency requirements.

(a) It shall be unlawful for a child sex offender to establish a permanent residence, establish a temporary residence or to be a recurring visitor at a residence, located within 1,500 feet of any premises where children commonly gather.

(b) It shall be unlawful to let or rent any place, structure or part thereof, manufactured home, trailer, or other conveyance, with the knowledge that it will be used as a permanent residence, temporary residence by any person prohibited from establishing such permanent residence or temporary residence pursuant to the terms of this article, if such place, structure or part thereof, manufactured home, trailer, or other conveyance, is located within 1,500 feet of any premises where children commonly gather.

Sec. 23.292. – Halloween.

A child sex offender shall not on each October 31st leave decorations or an exterior porch light on or otherwise invite trick-or-treaters to the premises.

Sec. 23.293. - Evidentiary matters; measurement.

(a) For the purpose of determining the minimum distance of separation under this article, the distance shall be measured by following a straight line from the outer property line of the permanent or temporary residence to the nearest property line of the premises where children commonly gather, as described hereinabove, or, in the case of multiple residences on one property, measuring from the nearest property line of the premises to the nearest property line of the premises where children commonly gather, as described herein.

(b) A map depicting the prohibited areas shall be maintained by the City, and it shall be reviewed and updated not less than annually for changes. Said map will be available to the public on the City's website at the Kyle Police Department.

(c) Neither allegation nor evidence of a culpable mental state is required for the proof of an offense defined in this article.

Sec. 23.294. - Affirmative defenses.

The following shall be affirmative defenses to prosecution under this article if any of the following conditions apply:

(a) It shall be an affirmative defense under Sec. 23.291(a) if the person required to register on the database established the permanent or temporary residence and has complied with all of the child sex offender registration laws of the State, prior to the date of the adoption of this article,⁵ ~~provided, however that if the person required to register on the database established the permanent or temporary residence through a lease or other rental arrangement in effect on the effective date of this article, this affirmative defense shall not apply upon termination of the lease/rental arrangement that is in effect on the effective date of this article.~~

(b) It shall be an affirmative defense under Sec. 23.291(a) if the premises where children commonly gather was designated, declared and/or determined after the child sex offender established the permanent or temporary residence and complied with all child sex offender registration laws of the State. ~~provided, however, that if the person required to register on the database established the permanent or temporary residence through a lease or other rental arrangement in effect on the effective date of this article, this affirmative defense shall not apply upon termination of the lease/rental arrangement that is in effect on the effective date of this article.~~

(c) It shall be an affirmative defense under Sec. 23.291 if the person required to register on the database lives in a medical facility for care where services are designed to meet a person's health or personal care needs during a short or long period of time.

(ed) It shall be an affirmative defense under Sec. 23.291 if the information on the database is incorrect, and, if corrected, this article would not apply to the person who was erroneously listed on the database.

(de) The person required to register as a sex offender was a minor when he/she committed the offense requiring such registration and was not convicted as an adult.

(ef) The person was within a child safety zone performing community service ruled by a magistrate.

SECTION 3. PENALTY PROVISION. Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be charged with a class C misdemeanor; and upon conviction shall be fined as provided for in Sec 1-14(a) of this Code for each day that a violation exists, and a separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE. All rights and remedies of the City are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of any ordinances affecting sex offender regulations and child safety zones that have accrued at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance; and, as to such accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, whether pending in court or not, under such ordinances, same shall not be affected by this Ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCES. The City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 23, is hereby amended to the extent of any conflict or inconsistency herewith only and all ordinances or parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance as adopted and amended herein, are hereby amended to the extent of such conflict. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this Ordinance and any other code or ordinance of the city, the terms and provisions of this Ordinance shall govern.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or illegal, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clause or phrases be declared void.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after publication in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter and the Local Government Code.

SECTION 8. OPEN MEETINGS. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance is passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act.

PASSED AND APPROVED on First Reading this ____ day of _____, 2021.

FINALLY PASSED AND APPROVED on this the ____ day of _____, 2021.

THE CITY OF KYLE, TEXAS

Travis Mitchell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Holm, City Secretary
