

ORDINANCE NO. C-20-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 16 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND OFFENSES, ARTICLE II, OFFENSES INVOLVING PROPERTY RIGHTS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 16-31, CAMPING PROHIBITED IN DESIGNATED AREAS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale has a substantial interest in protecting against unsanitary conditions and safety issues in areas where children normally traverse and congregate and in promoting the public health and peaceful enjoyment of public property, and prohibiting camping in certain designated areas without adequate resources is a reasonable means of achieving such goals; and

WHEREAS, the unauthorized use of public property for camping where the property in question is neither intended nor designed as a camp site, campground, or site for temporary human habilitation tends to impair, obstruct, and otherwise detract from the use of the property for its intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale has determined that the following amendments promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Article II, Offenses Involving Property Rights, of Chapter 16, MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND OFFENSES, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 16-31. - Camping prohibited ~~within the downtown~~ In Designated Areas.**

*Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

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*Camping* means to reside or dwell temporarily in a place, with or without shelter, and conduct activities of daily living such as eating, sleeping, or storage of personal possessions in such place.

*Child care facility* means any child care center or child care arrangement, including but not limited to family daycare providers, nursery schools, early childhood education centers, which provides child care for more than five children unrelated to the operator.

*Downtown* means the lands described in Section 2 of Chapter 2005-346, Laws of Florida, the Charter for the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale and depicted on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein.

*School* means any kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or post-secondary school; whether public or non-public.

*Shelter* includes, without limitation, any tent, hut, lean-to, shack, tarpaulin, sleeping bag, bedroll, or any form of cover or protection from the elements other than clothing for purposes of sleeping.

*Officer* means a sworn law enforcement officer.

*Public property* means any street, alley, sidewalk, pedestrian pathway, bicycle lane, or any other area encompassed within the public right-of-way, any park, or other recreation facility, or any other grounds, buildings, or other facilities owned or leased by the City of Fort Lauderdale.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in camping on public property at any time within the Downtown, except in any location where camping has been expressly authorized by the City of Fort Lauderdale or the agency having the control, management and supervision of the public property at issue.

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- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in camping on public property at any time within one thousand (1000) feet of a child care facility or school, except in any location where camping has been expressly authorized by the City of Fort Lauderdale or the agency having the control, management and supervision of the public property at issue.
- (c) For the purpose of determining the minimum distance separation, the distance shall be measured by following a straight line from the outermost property line of the camping location to the nearest outermost property line of any school or child care facility.
- ~~(b)~~(d) No officer shall issue a citation, make an arrest or otherwise enforce this section against any person unless:
  - (1) The officer orally requests or orders the person to refrain from the alleged violation of this section, and if the person fails to comply after receiving the oral request or order, the person may be cited or arrested for a violation of this section; and
  - (2) The officer attempts to ascertain whether the person is in need of medical or human services assistance, including but not limited to mental health treatment, drug or alcohol rehabilitation, or homeless assistance. If the officer determines that the person is in need of the assistance, the officer shall afford the person an opportunity to be transported to either a hospital or a public shelter; and
  - (3) The officer shall advise the person that all of his or her personal property which is not taken to the hospital or public shelter accompanying the person, except that which is of no apparent utility or which is in an unsanitary condition, shall be inventoried and stored by the City police department for a maximum of ~~thirty (30) days~~ninety (90) days, until reclaimed; and
  - (4) The person who needs medical or human services assistance

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refuses to be transported to a hospital or public shelter; and

- (5) The person is not in need of medical or human services assistance.
- (~~ee~~) Any personal property that was inventoried and stored by the City police department for a person transported to a hospital or public shelter under the provisions of this section which has not been reclaimed within ~~thirty (30) days~~ninety (90) days of the date the personal property was inventoried and stored shall be deemed abandoned and disposed of according to Chapter 705, Florida Statutes.
- (~~ef~~) Being in a shelter or being above, atop or covered by materials on public property may be evidence of camping, but not alone sufficient to constitute a violation of this section. One (1) or more of the following activities shall also exist to determine whether the conduct is for the purposes of daily living:
  - (1) Numerous items of personal possessions are present;
  - (2) The person is engaged in cooking activities;
  - (3) The person has built or is maintaining a fire;
  - (4) The person has engaged in digging or earth breaking activities;
  - (5) The laying down of bedding, such as a mat, blanket, sleeping bag or similar material for the purpose of sleeping.
- (~~eg~~) Violations of this section shall be punishable as provided in Section 1-6 of this Code.

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SECTION 2. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days from the date of final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.

PASSED SECOND READING this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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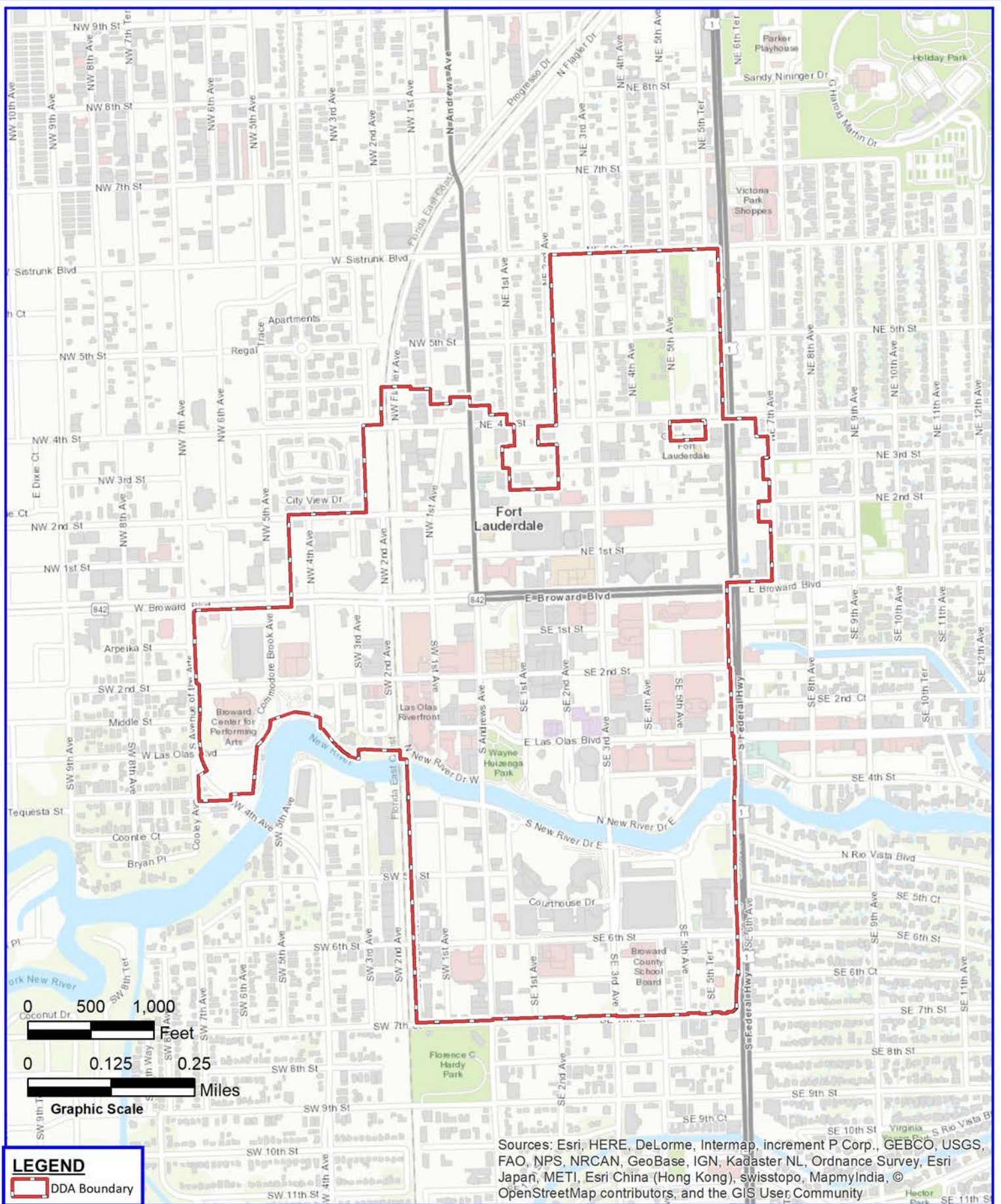
Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

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City Clerk  
JEFFERY A. MODARELLI

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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**DDA Boundary**



**GIS**  
Fort Lauderdale

Date: 3/4/2020