



**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

**TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE 9, DIVISION 2, SECTION 326 TO REQUIRE  
A PARADE PERMIT FOR ANY PARADE CONSISTING OF  
TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE PERSONS**

**WHEREAS**, the City stands in full support of citizens who exercise their First Amendment rights to peaceful demonstrations and protests; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a very serious threat in the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the presence of large numbers in a limited space, combined with the potential for an escalating threat of violence, presents a risk of serious injury to innocent people including lawful protestors and the police, as well as to visitors and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, given the current challenges facing the City, there is a need for advance notice of parades, marches and demonstrations of a significant size that occur on streets, sidewalks, parks and public rights of way so that the City's law enforcement officers can coordinate with other public safety departments, and remain vigilant in protecting the public health and safety of its residents and visitors.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 19, Article 9, Division 2, Section 326 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by deleting the following struck through words and replacing them with the underlined words, which shall read as follows:

**"Sec. 19-326. Required; exceptions**

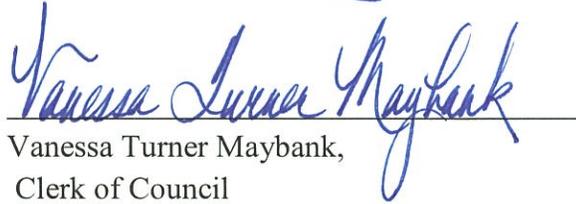
(a) No person shall engage in, participate in, aid, form or start any parade, consisting of  ~~fifty~~  twenty-five (25) or more persons, unless a parade permit shall have been obtained from the chief of police. Any person engaging in any parade for which a parade permit has been issued shall not violate any of the conditions or provisions of such permit.”

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61<sup>st</sup> day after its enactment, whichever date is earlier.

Ratified in City Council this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2020, and in the 245<sup>th</sup> Year of the Independence of the United States of America

  
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John Tecklenburg, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Vanessa Turner Maybank,  
Clerk of Council