TITLE 11

MUNICIPAL OFFENSES

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CHAPTER 1

ALCOHOL

SECTION
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11-101. **Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume, or have an open can or bottle of beer or

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1Municipal code references
   Animals and fowls: title 10.
   Housing and utilities: title 12.
   Fireworks and explosives: title 7.
   Traffic offenses: title 15.
   Streets and sidewalks (non-traffic): title 16.

2Municipal code reference
   Sale of alcoholic beverages, including beer: title 8.
   State law reference
   See Tennessee Code Annotated § 33-8-203 (Arrest for Public Intoxication, cities may not pass separate legislation).
intoxicating liquor in or on any public street, alley, avenue, highway, sidewalk, public park, public school ground or playground or other public place within the municipality unless the place has an appropriate permit and/or license for on premises consumption of such beverage. Violation of this section shall be a civil offense. (1981 Code, § 10-244)

11-102. Minors in beer places. No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall loiter in or around, work in, or otherwise frequent any place where beer is sold at retail for consumption on the premises. Furthermore, no such minor shall purchase, attempt to purchase, or possess beer in any such beer place. (1981 Code, § 10-237, modified)

11-103. Lewd acts in beer and alcoholic beverage establishments prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to appear in any place or establishment or the premises thereof wherein beer or alcoholic beverages are consumed or sold and to:

(1) Publicly perform acts, or simulated acts, of sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation, or any other sexual acts prohibited by law.

(2) Publicly engage in the actual or simulated touching, caressing, or fondling of the breasts, buttocks, anus or genitals.

(3) Publicly engage in the actual or simulated displaying of the pubic hair, anus, buttocks, vulva, genitals, or breasts below the top of the aureola of any person.

(4) Publicly wear or use any device or covering, exposed to public view, which simulates the human breasts, genitals, anus, buttocks, pubic hair or any portion thereof.

(5) Have any entertainer who is employed in whole or part by any licensee to dance except on a stage at least eighteen inches above the immediate floor level and removed at least six feet from the nearest patron. (1981 Code, § 10-213)

11-104. Owner or employee not to permit or allow lewd acts. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or allow another to commit any of the acts specified in § 11-103 hereof on or about the premises which are owned, managed, or operated by said person or in which said person is employed. (1981 Code, § 10-214)

11-105. Penalties. Every person convicted of having violated any of the preceding two sections shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished in accordance with the general penalty clause of this code. Each day any violation of §§ 11-103 or 11-104 continues shall be deemed a separate offense. (1981 Code, § 10-215)
11-106. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or beer or possession of open containers prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to have or to drink an alcoholic beverage or beer from an open can, bottle, glass or other container in, on or at any public park, public school ground, public street, alley, avenue, highway or sidewalk, or in or at any public place unless such public place has a beer or liquor permit and license for "on premises consumption." (1981 Code, § 10-247)
CHAPTER 2

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON

SECTION
11-201. Assault and battery.

11-201. Assault and battery. It shall be unlawful for any person to commit an assault or an assault and battery. (1981 Code, § 10-201)
CHAPTER 3

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET

SECTION
11-301. Disturbing the peace.
11-302. Anti-noise regulations.

11-301. Disturbing the peace. No person shall disturb, tend to disturb, or aid in disturbing the peace of others by violent, tumultuous, offensive, or obstreperous conduct, and no person shall knowingly permit such conduct upon any premises owned or possessed by him or under his control. (1981 Code, § 10-202)

11-302. Anti-noise regulations. Subject to the provisions of this section, the creating of any unreasonably loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noise is prohibited. Noise of such character, intensity, or duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual, or in disturbance of the public peace and welfare, is prohibited.

(1) Miscellaneous prohibited noises enumerated. The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises in violation of this section, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:

   (a) Blowing horns. The sounding of any horn or other device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, truck, or vehicle while not in motion except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching, apparently out of control, or if in motion, only as a danger signal after or as brakes are being applied and deceleration of the vehicle is intended; the creation by means of any such signal device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; and the sounding of such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.

   (b) Radios, phonographs, etc. The playing of any radio, phonograph, or any musical instrument or sound device, including but not limited to loudspeakers or other devices for reproduction or amplification of sound, either independently of or in connection with motion pictures, radio, or television, in such a manner or with such volume, particularly during the hours between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in any office or hospital, or in any dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any person in the vicinity.

   (c) Yelling, shouting, hooting, etc. Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing on the public streets, particularly between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., or at any time or place so as to annoy or
(d) **Pets.** The keeping of any animal, bird, or fowl which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity.

(e) **Use of vehicle.** The use of any automobile, motorcycle, truck, or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded, or in such manner as to cause loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, or other noise.

(f) **Blowing whistles.** The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler, except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of fire or danger, or upon request of proper city authorities.

(g) **Exhaust discharge.** To discharge into the open air the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor vehicle, or boat engine, except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.

(h) **Building operations.** The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration, or repair of any building in any residential area or section or the construction or repair of streets and highways in any residential area or section, other than between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on week days, except in case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the building inspector granted for a period while the emergency continues not to exceed thirty (30) days. If the building inspector should determine that the public health and safety will not be impaired by the erection, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building or the excavation of streets and highways between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., and if he shall further determine that loss or inconvenience would result to any party in interest through delay, he may grant permission for such work to be done between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. upon application being made at the time the permit for the work is awarded or during the process of the work.

(i) **Noises near schools, hospitals, churches, etc.** The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any hospital or adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church, or court while the same is in session.

(j) **Loading and unloading operations.** The creation of any loud and excessive noise in connection with the loading or unloading of any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates, and other containers.

(k) **Noises to attract attention.** The use of any drum, loudspeaker, or other instrument or device emitting noise for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show, or sale or display of merchandise.
(l) **Loudspeakers or amplifiers on vehicles.** The use of mechanical loudspeakers or amplifiers on trucks or other moving or standing vehicles for advertising or other purposes.

(2) **Exceptions.** None of the terms or prohibitions hereof shall apply to or be enforced against:

(a) **City vehicles.** Any vehicle of the city while engaged upon necessary public business.

(b) **Repair of streets, etc.** Excavations or repairs of bridges, streets, or highways at night, by or on behalf of the city, the county, or the state, when the public welfare and convenience renders it impracticable to perform such work during the day.

(c) **Noncommercial and nonprofit use of loudspeakers or amplifiers.** The reasonable use of amplifiers or loudspeakers in the course of public addresses which are noncommercial in character and in the course of advertising functions sponsored by nonprofit organizations. However, no such use shall be made until a permit therefor is secured from the recorder. Hours for the use of an amplifier or public address system will be designated in the permit so issued and the use of such systems shall be restricted to the hours so designated in the permit. (1981 Code, § 10-245)
CHAPTER 4

INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

SECTION
11-401. Escape from custody or confinement.
11-402. Impersonating an officer.
11-403. False emergency alarms.
11-404. Resisting or interfering with a police officer.
11-405. Coercing people not to work.

11-401. **Escape from custody or confinement.** It shall be unlawful for any person under arrest or otherwise in custody of or confined by the city to escape or attempt to escape, or for any other person to assist or encourage such person to escape or attempt to escape from such custody or confinement. (1981 Code, § 10-221)

11-402. **Impersonating an officer.** No person other than an official police officer of the city shall wear the uniform, apparel, or badge, or carry any identification card or other insignia of office like or similar to, or a colorable imitation of that adopted and worn or carried by the official police officers of the city. Furthermore, no person shall deceitfully impersonate or represent that he is any government officer or employee. (1981 Code, § 10-223)

11-403. **False emergency alarms.** It shall be unlawful for any person intentionally to make, turn in, or give a false alarm of fire, or of need for police or ambulance assistance, or to aid or abet in the commission of such act. (1981 Code, § 10-232)

11-404. **Resisting or interfering with a police officer.** It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to resist or in any way interfere with or attempt to interfere with any police officer while the latter is in the discharge or apparent discharge of his duty. (1981 Code, § 10-222)

11-405. **Coercing people not to work.** It shall be unlawful for any person in association or agreement with one or more persons to assemble, congregate or meet together in the vicinity of any premises where other persons are employed or reside, or upon the streets, approaches or places adjacent thereto, for the purpose of inducing any such other person, by compulsion, threats, coercion, intimidation, act of violence, or by otherwise putting such person in fear, to quit his employment, or to refrain from seeking or freely entering into any lawful employment. This does not prohibit peaceful picketing. (1981 Code, § 10-230)
CHAPTER 5

FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES

SECTION
11-501. Air rifles, etc.
11-502. Throwing missiles.
11-503. Weapons and firearms generally.

11-501. **Air rifles, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person in the city to discharge any air gun, air pistol, air rifle, "BB" gun, or sling shot capable of discharging a metal bullet or pellet, whether propelled by spring, compressed air, expanding gas, explosive, or other force-producing means or method. (1981 Code, § 10-225)

11-502. **Throwing missiles.** It shall be unlawful for any person to throw any stone, snowball, bottle, or any other missile maliciously upon or at any vehicle, building, tree, or other public or private property or upon or at any person in any public or private way or place. (1981 Code, § 10-226)

11-503. **Weapons and firearms generally.** It shall be unlawful for any person to carry in any manner whatever, with the intent to go armed, any razor, dirk, knife, blackjack, brass knucks, pistol, revolver, or any other dangerous weapon or instrument except the army or navy pistol which shall be carried openly in the hand. However, the foregoing prohibition shall not apply to members of the united States Armed Forces carrying such weapons as are prescribed by applicable regulations nor to any officer or policeman engaged in his official duties, in the execution of process, or while searching for or engaged in arresting persons suspected of having committed crimes. Furthermore, the prohibition shall not apply to persons who may have been summoned by such officer or policeman to assist in the discharge of his said duties and in arresting criminals and transporting and turning them over to the proper authorities, nor to any conductor of any passenger or freight train of any steam railroad while he is on duty. It shall also be unlawful for any unauthorized person to discharge a firearm within the municipality. (1981 Code, § 10-224)
CHAPTER 6
TRESPASSING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC

SECTION
11-601. Trespassing on trains.
11-602. Malicious mischief.

11-601. Trespassing on trains. It shall be unlawful for any minor or other person to climb, jump, step, stand upon, or cling to, or in any other way attach himself to any locomotive engine or railroad car unless he works for the railroad corporation and is acting in the scope of his employment or unless he is a lawful passenger or is otherwise lawfully entitled to be on such vehicle. (1981 Code, § 10-236)

11-602. Malicious mischief. The act of malicious mischief, as hereby defined, shall constitute a misdemeanor. For the purpose of this section, malicious mischief shall be defined and considered as any malicious or mischievous physical injury either to the property or rights of another or to those of the public in general, and without the consent of the owner. Without excluding any act not herein named, but expressly included herein, the following acts shall be and constitute malicious mischief and a misdemeanor:

1. Damaging a vessel or building by explosion.
2. Burning crops, timber or grass.
3. Altering or removing a signal or light for a railroad or vessel or exhibiting false lights or signals.
4. Maliciously injuring, destroying, defacing or removing any milestone, post, guideboard, or street marker, bridge, private way, pier, tree, rock, post, or other monument for designing property, telegraph or telephone wire, or cable, or appurtenances belonging thereto, pipe or main for conducting gas or water and appurtenances thereto, electric lines, lamps, posts and appurtenances thereto, sewer or drain or pipe connected therewith, fire hydrants, hose or appliances, fire extinguishers, danger and guideposts.
5. Entering upon the garden, orchard, or improved cultivated or enclosed lands of another, and to wilfully or wantonly sever, destroy, carry away, or injure the trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, moss, turf, grain, grass, hay, fruit, or vegetables thereon.
6. Digging, taking or carrying away earth, soil or stone from the land of another.
7. Placing any structure upon the land of another.
8. Breaking plate glass windows or doors of another.
9. Breaking, defacing or injuring any house of religious worship.
(10) Connecting any tube, pipe, wire or other instrument with any instrument used for conducting gas, fuel, electricity or water, in such manner as to use said gas, fuel, electricity or water without same passing through a meter or other instrument.

(11) Altering, injuring, or preventing the action of a meter, valve, stop cock, or other instrument used for measuring quantities of gas, electricity or water.

(12) Breaking, defacing or causing to be broken or defaced, the seal on any water meter.

(13) Loosening the brake or blocking of any car standing on any railroad track in the city.

(14) Taking or carrying away any coal or other fuel from any railroad car or environs of the city.

(15) Maliciously to cut away, let loose, injure or destroy any raft, boat, floating mill, watercraft or vessel of another, or carrying the same from its moorings.

(16) Knowingly or willfully to destroy or carry away the rails or boards, wood or other lumber of another, or to tear down or remove any structure or part thereof, or to destroy, or remove therefrom any plumbing, electrical equipment or other appurtenances.

(17) Maliciously to destroy, injure or secrete any goods, chattels or valuable papers of another.

(18) Wantonly or unnecessarily to remove, cut, injure or destroy any tree, shrub, vine, moss or turf, growing or being located, upon any public lands of any character whatsoever, including all public parks and the entire rights-of-way of all public highways, roads, streets and alleys.

(19) For any chauffeur or any other person in like capacity to use the automobile of another without the owner's permission or consent.

(20) Willfully to top, cut, burn, break down, injure or destroy, or otherwise to interrupt or interfere with the current, lines, cables, poles, towers, fixtures or appliances of any telephone or telegraph company, or municipality engaged in furnishing communication, light, heat or power by electricity or in any way to injure, remove, destroy or interfere with any gas, water or electrical fixtures or appliances. (1981 Code, § 10-239)
CHAPTER 7

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

11-701. Posting notices, etc.
11-702. Curfew for minors.
11-703. Wearing masks.
11-704. Littering streets, public places and private property prohibited.
11-705. Disturbing the municipal court.
11-706. Misdemeanors of the state adopted.

11-701. **Posting notices, etc.** No person shall fasten, in any way, any show-card, poster, or other advertising device upon any public or private property within the corporate limits unless legally authorized to do so. (1981 Code, § 10-240)

11-702. **Curfew for minors.** It shall be unlawful for any minor, under the age of eighteen (18) years, to be abroad at night after 11:00 P.M. unless upon a legitimate errand or accompanied by a parent or other adult person having lawful custody of such minor. (1981 Code, § 10-238)

11-703. **Wearing masks.** It shall be unlawful for any person to appear on or in any public way or place while wearing any mask, device, or hood whereby any portion of the face is so hidden or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer. The following are exempted from the provisions of this section:

1. Children under the age of ten (10) years.
2. Workers while engaged in work wherein a face covering is necessary for health and/or safety reasons.

11-704. **Littering streets, public places and private property prohibited.** It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to place any garbage, straw, dirt, chips, shells, nails, iron, glass, fruit peelings, melon rinds, paper, rags, other rubbish or obnoxious substance on any street, sidewalk, alley or public park, parkway square or other place in the city or on the property of another person. Each violation of this section shall be a separate and distinct offense. (1981 Code, § 10-241)

11-705. **Disturbing the municipal court.** It shall be unlawful for any person to create a disturbance of any trial before the municipal court by any distracting conduct, loud or unusual noise, or any indecorous, profane or blasphemous language. (1981 Code, § 10-218)
11-706. **Misdemeanors of the state adopted.** All offenses against the State of Tennessee which are defined by the state law to be misdemeanors are hereby designated and declared to be offenses against this municipality also and it is hereby ordained that any violation of any or either of said laws is also a violation of this section. (1981 Code, § 10-101)
CHAPTER 8

OBSCENITY, ETC.

SECTION
11-801. Obscene literature.
11-802. Definitions.
11-803. Unlawful to disseminate obscene materials to minors.
11-804. Unlawful to sell tickets to obscene presentations to minors.
11-805. Defenses.
11-806. Unlawful for minors knowingly to purchase obscene materials-- falsification of age.
11-807. Penalty.
11-808. Public indecency.

11-801. Obscene literature. It shall be unlawful for any person to publish, sell, exhibit, distribute, or possess for the purpose of lending, selling or otherwise circulating or exhibiting, any book, pamphlet, ballad, or other written or printed paper containing obscene language, prints, pictures or descriptions manifestly intended to corrupt the morals. (1981 Code, § 10-205)

11-802. Definitions. For the purposes of this, and the following five sections, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Minor" means any person who has not reached the age of eighteen (18) years.
(2) "Nudity" means the showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area, or buttocks with less than a full opaque cover or the showing of the female breasts with less than a full opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple, or the depiction of covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state.
(3) "Sexual conduct" means acts of masturbation, homosexuality, sexual intercourse, or physical contact with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or if such person be a female, the breasts.
(4) "Sexual excitement" means the condition of human male or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal.
(5) "Excess violence" means the depiction of acts of violence in such a graphic and/or bloody manner as to exceed common limits of custom and candor, or in such a manner that it is apparent that the predominant appeal of the material is portrayal of violence for violence's sake.
(6) "Sado-masochistic abuse" means flagellation or torture by or upon a person clad in undergarments, a mask or bizarre costume, or the condition of being fettered, bound or otherwise physically restrained on the part of one so clothed.
"Obscene to minors" means that quality of any description or representation in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, excess violence, or sado-masochistic abuse, when it:

(a) Predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors; and

(b) It is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and

(c) It is utterly without redeeming social importance for minors.

"Knowingly" means having general knowledge of, or reason to know, or a belief or ground for belief which warrants further inspection or inquiry or both:

(a) The character and content of any material described herein which is reasonably susceptible of examination by the defendant, and

(b) The age of the minor, provided, however, that an honest mistake shall constitute an excuse from liability hereunder if the defendant makes a reasonable bona fide attempt to ascertain the true age of such minor. (1981 Code, § 10-206)

11-803. Unlawful to disseminate obscene materials to minors. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to sell or loan for monetary consideration or otherwise exhibit or make available to a minor:

(1) Any picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, or similar visual representation or image of a person or portion of the human body which depicts nudity, sexual conduct, excess violence, or sado-masochistic abuse, and which is obscene to minors;

(2) Any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced, or sound recording which contains any material enumerated in paragraph (1) hereof above, or which contains explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, sexual conduct, excess violence or sado-masochistic abuse and which is obscene to minors. (1981 Code, § 10-207)

11-804. Unlawful to sell tickets to obscene presentations to minors. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to exhibit to a minor for monetary consideration, or knowingly to sell to a minor, an admission ticket or pass or otherwise to admit a minor to premises whereon there is exhibited a motion picture, show or other presentation which in whole or in part depicts nudity, sexual conduct, excess violence, or sadomasochistic abuse, and which is obscene to minors. (1981 Code, § 10-208)

11-805. Defenses. In any prosecution under §§ 11-803 and 11-804 for disseminating obscene material to minors, it is an affirmative defense that:
(1) That the person or persons under eighteen (18) years of age to whom the material or show was made available or exhibited were at the time accompanied by their parent or legal guardian, or by an adult with the written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

(2) The defendant had reasonable cause to believe that the minor involved was eighteen (18) years old or more, and such minor exhibited to the defendant a draft card, driver's license, birth certificate or other official or apparently official document purporting to establish that such minor was eighteen (18) years old or more. (1981 Code, § 10-209)

11-806. **Unlawful for minors knowingly to purchase obscene materials—falsification of age.** It shall be unlawful for any minor knowingly to purchase or accept as a loan for monetary consideration any obscene material as set forth in § 11-803 or to purchase an admission ticket or pass to an obscene motion picture show or other presentation as set forth in § 11-804. The display of a sign "For Adults Only" or "For Mature Audience" or words of similar import shall be admissible as showing that the minor knew or should have known of the character of the material and of his duty to further inquire. It shall further be unlawful for any minor to give his age falsely as eighteen (18) years of age or over for the purpose of purchasing material as set forth in § 11-803 or of gaining admittance to the exhibition of the material set forth in § 11-804. (1981 Code, § 10-210)

11-807. **Penalty.** Violation of any of the provisions of §§ 11-803, 11-804 and 11-806 shall be a misdemeanor. (1981 Code, § 10-211)

11-808. **Public indecency.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to perform in a public place, or for any person who owns or operates premises constituting a public place to permit or allow, the following acts or conduct:

(a) The performance of acts or simulated acts of sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation, or any sexual acts which are prohibited by laws, including but not limited to the actual or simulated touching, caressing or fondling of the breast, buttocks, anus or genitals in public.

(b) To appear in a state of "nudity." For purposes of this section, "nudity" shall mean the showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks with less than a full opaque covering, showing of the female breast with less than full opaque covering of any portion of the nipple or the showing of covered male genitals in a discernible turgid state.

(2) For the purpose of this section, "public place" shall include: streets, sidewalks, or highways; transportation facilities; schools; places of amusement; parks; playgrounds; restaurants; nightclubs; cocktail lounges; burlesque houses; bars; cabarets; taverns; taprooms; private fraternal, social, golf or country clubs;
or any place that allows the consumption of intoxicating beverages on the premises.

(3) Any person violating any of the promises of this section shall be subject to all penal provisions provided by laws.

(4) Any violations of this section shall be a public nuisance and shall be subject to abatement by injunction. (1981 Code, § 10-212)