

**TITLE 11**

**MUNICIPAL OFFENSES<sup>1</sup>**

**CHAPTER**

1. ALCOHOL.
2. [DELETED.]
3. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON.
4. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET.
5. INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
6. FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES.
7. TRESPASSING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC.
8. MISCELLANEOUS.
9. GENERALLY.

**CHAPTER 1**

**ALCOHOL<sup>2</sup>**

**SECTION**

- 11-101. Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc.  
11-102. Minors in beer places.

**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 in or on any public street, alley, avenue, highway, sidewalk, public park, public school ground or other public place unless the place has a beer permit and a license for on premises consumption. (Ord. of Feb. 6, 1940)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal 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.

<sup>2</sup>Municipal 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).

**11-102. Minors in beer places.** No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall loiter in or around, or otherwise frequent any place where beer is sold at retail for consumption on the premises.

**CHAPTER 2**

**[DELETED.]**

(as deleted by Ord. #200703, March 2007)

**CHAPTER 3**

**OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON**

**SECTION**

11-301. Assault and battery.

**11-301. Assault and battery.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commit an assault or an assault and battery.

## CHAPTER 4

### OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET

#### SECTION

11-401. Disturbing the peace.

11-402. Anti-noise regulations.

**11-401. 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.

**11-402. 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 disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of any person in any hospital, dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any person in the vicinity.

(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 6:00 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.

(1) 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 board of mayor and aldermen. 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. (Ord. of Sept. 3, 1940)

## CHAPTER 5

### INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

#### SECTION

11-501. Escape from custody or confinement.

11-502. Impersonating a government officer or employee.

11-503. False emergency alarms.

11-504. Resisting or interfering with an officer.

11-505. Coercing people not to work.

**11-501. 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.

**11-502. Impersonating a government officer or employee.** 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.

**11-503. 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.

**11-504. Resisting or interfering with an officer.** It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to resist or in any way interfere with or attempt to interfere with any officer or employee of the municipality while such officer or employee is performing or attempting to perform his municipal duties. (Ord. of July 5, 1955)

**11-505. Coercing people not to work.** It shall be unlawful for any person in association or agreement with any other person to assemble, congregate, or meet together in the vicinity of any premises where other persons are employed or reside for the purpose of inducing any such other person by threats, coercion, intimidation, or acts of violence to quit or refrain from entering a place of lawful employment. It is expressly not the purpose of this section to prohibit peaceful picketing.



**CHAPTER 6****FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES****SECTION**

11-601. Air rifles, etc.

11-602. Throwing missiles.

11-603. Weapons and firearms generally.

**11-601. 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.

The only exception to the above prohibition may be made for approved gun safety and gun education events at which only "BB" guns may be fired, under controlled and monitored conditions. No other weapons of any type may be fired at such events. Persons seeking to hold a "BB" gun safety event must apply for a permit from the city, and must submit an application fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The applicant must provide

- (1) A specific description of the event;
- (2) Drawings or photographs of equipment to be used;
- (3) A written safety plan to ensure that no projectiles will travel beyond the property line or other limits set by the city;
- (4) A drawing of the property on which the event will be held as well as the signed permission of the property owner; and,
- (5) Proof of insurance in an amount of at least three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) for each person and seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00) for each accident, and for property damages not less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for each accident.

No permission will be granted for any such event in a residential area. The event will only be approved for a specified period of time and operated only during such hours as approved by the city. Upon the filing of an application, the police chief shall conduct a background check of the responsible applicant, and shall investigate the safety plan and other documentation filed by the applicant. If the background check does not reveal any felony convictions or any charges related to weapons, and if the other documentation is approved by the police chief, the application may be approved by the city. (as amended by Ord. #201203, March 2012)

**11-602. 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.

**11-603. 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 knuckles, pistol, revolver, or any other dangerous weapon or instrument. However, the preceding 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, nor to any conductor of any passenger or freight train of any steam railroad while he is on duty. Persons who possess a valid handgun carry permit issued by the State of Tennessee may carry a handgun in accordance with the permit and applicable Tennessee laws governing the carrying of a handgun.

It shall also be unlawful for any unauthorized person to discharge a firearm within the municipality, except that nothing in this code shall be interpreted to prohibit a sanctioned Honor Guard of the VFW, American Legion or any branch of the United States Armed Forces from the ritual discharge of blank ammunition cartridges at a funeral service for a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or at the practice sessions by these organizations to prepare for these ceremonies. (as replaced by Ord. #201506, Oct. 2015)

## CHAPTER 7

**TRESPASSING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF AND INTERFERENCE  
WITH TRAFFIC****SECTION**

- 11-701. Trespassing.
- 11-702. Malicious mischief.
- 11-703. Interference with traffic.
- 11-704. Skateboards.

**11-701. Trespassing.** The owner or person in charge of any lot or parcel of land or any building or other structure within the corporate limits may post the same against trespassers. It shall be unlawful for any person to go upon any such posted lot or parcel of land or into any such posted building or other structure without the consent of the owner or person in charge.

It shall be unlawful and deemed to be a trespass for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, transient merchant, or other person to fail to leave promptly the private premises of any person who requests or directs him to leave.

**11-702. Malicious mischief.** It shall be unlawful and deemed to be malicious mischief for any person willfully, maliciously, or wantonly to damage, deface, destroy, conceal, tamper with, remove, or withhold real or personal property which does not belong to him.

**11-703. Interference with traffic.** It shall be unlawful for any person to stand, sit, or engage in any activity whatever on any public street, sidewalk, bridge, or public ground in such a manner as to prevent, obstruct, or interfere unreasonably with the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic thereon.

**11-704. Skateboards.** (1) A "skateboard" shall be defined as any board or platform device that travels upon wheels, of a style commonly occurring on roller skates, with a rider, and that is powered by human propulsion or gravity.

(2) Any use of a skateboard shall be prohibited in the area within the corporate boundary of the City of Lexington which is zoned B-3.

(3) All operators of a skateboard shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian. (Ord. #970006, Nov. 1997)

**CHAPTER 8****MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

11-801. Abandoned refrigerators, etc.

11-802. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.

11-803. Posting notices, etc.

11-804. Curfew for minors.

11-805. Wearing masks.

**11-801. Abandoned refrigerators, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to leave in any place accessible to children any abandoned, unattended, unused, or discarded refrigerator, icebox, or other container with any type latching or locking door without first removing therefrom the latch, lock, or door.

**11-802. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to permit to be maintained on property owned or occupied by him any cave, well, cistern, or other such opening in the ground which is dangerous to life and limb without an adequate cover or safeguard.

**11-803. Posting notices, etc.** No person shall fasten, in any way, any show-card, poster, or other advertising device upon any public or private property unless legally authorized to do so. (Ord. of June 8, 1937)

**11-804. Curfew for minors.** It shall be unlawful for any minor, under the age of eighteen (18) years, to be abroad at night between 11:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. unless going directly to or from a lawful activity or upon a legitimate errand for, or accompanied by, a parent, guardian, or other adult person having lawful custody of such minor.

**11-805. 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.
- (3) Persons wearing gas masks in civil defense drills and exercises or emergencies.
- (4) Any person having a special permit issued by the city recorder to wear a traditional holiday costume.

## CHAPTER 9

### GENERALLY

#### SECTION

11-901. Misdemeanor of the state adopted.

11-902. Financial responsibility.

**11-901. Misdemeanor of the state adopted.** All offenses against the State of Tennessee which are committed within the corporate limits and which are defined by the state law or are recognized by the common law to be misdemeanors are hereby designated and declared to be offenses against the City of Lexington also. Any violation of any such law within the corporate limits is also a violation of this section. (As added by Ord. #200002, March 2000)

**11-902. Financial responsibility.** (1) Effective January 1, 2002, every vehicle operated within the corporate limits of the City of Lexington, must be in compliance with the Tennessee Financial Responsibility law.

(2) At the time a driver of a motor vehicle is charged with any moving violation under title 55 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, chapters 8 and 10, parts 1 through 5, or chapter 50; or any city ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles within the city under this section; or the time of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request evidence of financial responsibility as required by this section. In case of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request such evidence from all drivers involved in the accident, without regard to apparent or actual fault.

(3) For purposes of § 11-902 "Proof of Financial Responsibility" means:

(a) Documentation, such as the declaration page of an insurance policy, an insurance binder, or an insurance card from an insurance company authorized to do business in Tennessee, stating that a policy of insurance meeting the requirements of the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1997 has been issued; or,

(b) A certificate, valid for one (1) year, issued by the Commission of the Department of Safety, stating that a cash deposit or bond of the amount required by the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1997 has been paid or filed with the commissioner, or has qualified as a self-insurer under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-12-111; or

(c) The motor vehicle being operated at the time of the violation was owned by a carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Safety or the Interstate Commerce Commission, or was owned by the United States, the State of Tennessee, or any political subdivision thereof, and that such motor vehicle was being with the owner's consent.

(4) It is an offense to fail to provide evidence of financial responsibility pursuant to this section. Any violation of this section is punishable by a fine of fifty (\$50.00), plus court cost. The fine imposed by this section shall be in addition to any other fine imposed for any other violations of state law or any other ordinance under the city code.

(5) On or before the court date for the hearing of the citation for failure to provide financial responsibility as required by this section, the person so charged may submit evidence of compliance with this section at the time of the violation to the city court clerk. If the city judge is satisfied that compliance was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. (as added by Ord. #200201, Feb. 2002)