

TITLE 11

MUNICIPAL OFFENSES¹

CHAPTER

1. ALCOHOL.
2. FORTUNE TELLING, ETC.
3. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET.
4. INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
5. FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES.
6. TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC.
7. MISCELLANEOUS.
8. CURFEW FOR MINORS.

CHAPTER 1

ALCOHOL²

SECTION

11-101. Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc.

11-102. Drinking beer, etc., or throwing containers on private property without permission.

11-101. Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume, or have an open container of beer or intoxicating liquor in or on any public street, alley, avenue, highway, sidewalk, public park, public school ground or other public place unless the place has an appropriate permit and/or license for on premises consumption. (1982 Code, § 10-229)

¹Municipal code references

Animals and fowls: title 10.

Housing and utilities: title 12.

Fireworks and explosives: title 7, chapter 2.

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).

11-102. Drinking beer, etc., or throwing containers on private property without permission. It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume or have an open can or bottle of beer or intoxicating liquor on, or to throw a container therefor on the private property of any other person within the city without said property owner's express or implied permission. (1982 Code, § 10-228)

CHAPTER 2

FORTUNE TELLING, ETC.

SECTION

11-201. Fortune telling, etc.

11-201. Fortune telling, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to hold himself forth to the public as a fortune teller, clairvoyant, hypnotist, spiritualist, palmist, phrenologist, or other mystic endowed with supernatural powers. (1982 Code, § 10-234)

CHAPTER 3

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET

SECTION

11-301. Disturbing the peace.

11-302. Anti-noise regulations.

11-301. Disturbing the peace. (1) 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.

(2) It shall be an offense for any person to intentionally conceal said person's identity by wearing a mask, hood or other device or means of disguise covering the face:

(a) For the purpose of facilitating the commission of any public offense, including the intent to intimidate, threaten, abuse, or harass any other person;

(b) Where it is probable that a reasonable person will be placed in fear for their personal safety by the subject's actions, with reckless disregard for that probability;

(c) For the purpose of evading or escaping discovery, recognition, identification or capture in the commission of or subsequent to the commission of any public offense; or

(d) For the purpose of concealment, flight or escape, when charged with, arrested for or convicted of any public offense. (1982 Code, § 10-202, as amended by Ord. #953, Nov. 2017)

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 signal 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.

(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) Municipal 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. (1982 Code, § 10-233)

CHAPTER 4

INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

SECTION

11-401. Impersonating a government officer or employee.

11-402. False emergency alarms.

11-403. Coercing people not to work.

11-404. Escape from custody or confinement.

11-405. Resisting or interfering with city personnel.

11-401. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-211)

11-402. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-217)

11-403. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-230)

11-404. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-209)

11-405. Resisting or interfering with city personnel. (1) 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 city while such officer or employee is performing or attempting to perform his municipal duties.

(2) It shall be an offense for any person to wear a mask, hood or other device or means of disguise which conceals said person's identity, with intent to obstruct the enforcement or execution of the law, or to intimidate, hinder or interrupt an officer or other person in the lawful performance of their duty, whether such intent is effected or not. (1982 Code, § 10-210, as amended by Ord. #953, Nov. 2017)

CHAPTER 5

FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES**SECTION**

- 11-501. Air rifles, etc.
11-502. Throwing of missiles.
11-503. Discharge of firearms.

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. (1982 Code, § 10-213)

11-502. Throwing of missiles. It shall be unlawful for any person to throw maliciously any stone, snowball, bottle, or any other missile upon or at any vehicle, building, tree, or other public or private property or upon or at any person. (1982 Code, § 10-214)

11-503. Discharge of firearms. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to discharge a firearm within the corporate limits.

CHAPTER 6

TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC

SECTION

11-601. Trespassing.

11-602. Interference with traffic.

11-601. Trespassing. (1) On premises open to the public.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to defy a lawful order, personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person, not to enter or remain upon the premises of another, including premises which are at the time open to the public.

(b) The owner of the premises, or his authorized agent, may lawfully order another not to enter or remain upon the premises if such person is committing, or commits, any act which interferes with, or tends to interfere with, the normal, orderly, peaceful or efficient conduct of the activities of such premises.

(2) On premises closed or partially closed to public. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly enter or remain upon the premises of another which is not open to the public, notwithstanding that another part of the premises is at the time open to the public.

(3) Vacant buildings. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain upon the premises of a vacated building after notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person or is posted in a conspicuous manner.

(4) Lots and buildings in general. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain on or in any lot or parcel of land or any building or other structure after notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person or is posted in a conspicuous manner.

(5) Peddlers, etc. It shall also be unlawful and deemed to be a trespass for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, transient merchant, or other person to fail to promptly leave the private premises of any person who requests or directs him to leave.¹

11-602. Interference with traffic. It shall be unlawful for any person to stand, sit, or engage in any activity whatever on any public street, sidewalk,

¹Municipal code reference

Provisions governing peddlers: title 9, chapter 2.

bridge, or public ground in such a manner as to prevent, obstruct, or interfere with the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic thereon.

CHAPTER 7

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

11-701. Abandoned refrigerators, etc.

11-702. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.

11-703. Posting notices, etc.

11-704. Curfew for minors.

11-705. Use of Engleman Park.

11-706. Use of city property without permission.

11-701. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-223)

11-702. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-231)

11-703. 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. (1982 Code, § 10-227)

11-704. Curfew for minors. It shall be unlawful for any minor, under the age of eighteen (18) years, to be abroad at night between 12:30 A.M. and 6:00 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. (1982 Code, § 10-224, modified)

11-705. Use of Engleman Park. It shall be unlawful for any person to use Engleman Park except during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. each day when the park is lawfully open unless such person has special permission from the recreation and parks commission or the mayor and board of commissioners. (1982 Code, § 10-236)

11-706. Use of city property without permission. Use of any real property of the City of Sweetwater, and/or any and all improvements affixed thereto, in violation of the posted rules and regulations of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Sweetwater shall constitute an offense punishable to the fullest extent authorized for the enforcement of ordinances by the Sweetwater City Code and Tennessee Code Annotated. (as added by Ord. #857, Aug. 2010)

CHAPTER 8**CURFEW FOR MINORS****SECTION**

- 11-801. Purpose.
- 11-802. Definitions.
- 11-803. Curfew enacted; exceptions.
- 11-804. Parental involvement in violation unlawful.
- 11-805. Involvement by owner or operator of vehicle unlawful.
- 11-806. Involvement by operator or employee of establishment unlawful.
- 11-807. Giving false information unlawful.
- 11-808. Enforcement.
- 11-809. Violation and penalty.

11-801. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to

- (1) Promote the general welfare and protect the general public through the reduction of juvenile violence and crime within the city;
- (2) Promote the safety and well-being of minors, whose inexperience renders them particularly vulnerable to becoming participants in unlawful activity, particularly unlawful drug activity, and to being victimized by older criminals; and
- (3) Foster and strengthen parental responsibility for children.

11-802. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following words have the following meanings:

- (1) "Curfew hours" means the hours of 12:30 A.M. through 6:00 A.M. each day.
- (2) "Emergency" means unforeseen circumstances, and the resulting condition or status, requiring immediate action to safeguard life, limb, or property. The word includes, but is not limited to, fires, natural disasters, automobile accidents, or other similar circumstances.
- (3) "Establishment" means any privately-owned business place within the city operated for a profit and to which the public is invited, including, but not limited to, any place of amusement or entertainment. The word "operator" with respect to an establishment means any person, firm, association, partnership (including its members or partners), and any corporation (including its officers) conducting or managing the establishment.
- (4) "Minor" means any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has not been emancipated under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 29-31-101, et seq.
- (5) "Parent" means:

(a) A person who is a minor's biological or adoptive parent and who has legal custody of the minor, including either parent if custody is shared under a court order or agreement;

(b) A person who is the biological or adoptive parent with whom a minor regularly resides;

(c) A person judicially appointed as the legal guardian of a minor; and/or

(d) A person eighteen (18) years of age or older standing in loco parentis (as indicated by authorization by a parent as defined in this definition for the person to assume the care or physical custody of the minor, or as indicated by any other circumstances).

(6) "Person" means an individual and not a legal entity.

(7) "Public place" means any place to which the public or a substantial portion of the public has access, including, but not limited to: streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks, and the common areas of schools, hospitals, apartment houses or buildings, office buildings, transportation facilities, and shops.

(8) "Remain" means

(a) To linger or stay at or upon a place or

(b) To fail to leave a place when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer or by the owner, operator, or other person in control of that place.

(9) "Temporary care facility" means a non-locked, non-restrictive shelter at which a minor may wait, under visual supervision, to be retrieved by a parent. A minor waiting in a temporary care facility may not be handcuffed or secured by handcuffs or otherwise to any stationary object.

11-803. Curfew enacted; exceptions. It is unlawful for any minor, during curfew hours, to remain in or upon any public place within the city, to remain in any motor vehicle operating or parked on any public place within the city, or to remain in or upon the premises of any establishment within the city, unless:

(1) The minor is accompanied by a parent; or

(2) The minor is involved in an emergency; or

(3) The minor is engaged in an employment activity, or is going to or returning home from employment activity, without detour or stop; or

(4) The minor is on the sidewalk directly abutting a place where he or she resides with a parent; or

(5) The minor is attending an activity supervised by adults and sponsored by a school, religious, or civic organization, by a public organization or agency, or by a similar organization, or the minor is going to or returning from such an activity without detour or stop; or

(6) The minor is on an errand at the direction of a parent, and the minor has in his or her possession a writing signed by the parent containing the name, signature, address, and telephone number of the parent authorizing the errand, the telephone number where the parent may be reached during the errand, the name of the minor, and a brief description of the errand, the minor's destination(s) and the hours the minor is authorized to be engaged in the errand; or

(7) The minor is involved in interstate travel through, or beginning or terminating in, the City of Sweetwater; or

(8) The minor is exercising First Amendment rights protected by the U.S. Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly.

11-804. Parental involvement in violation unlawful. It is unlawful for a minor's parent knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a violation of § 11-803 of this chapter.

11-805. Involvement by owner or operator of vehicle unlawful. It is unlawful for a person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a violation of § 11-803 of this chapter using the motor vehicle.

11-806. Involvement by operator or employee of establishment unlawful. It is unlawful for the operator or any employee of an establishment knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a minor to remain on the premises of the establishment during curfew hours. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the operator or employee promptly notified law enforcement officials that a minor was present during curfew hours and refused to leave.

11-807. Giving false information unlawful. It is unlawful for any person, including a minor, knowingly to give a false name, address, or telephone number to any law enforcement officer investigating a possible violation of § 11-803 of this chapter. Each violation of this section is punishable by a maximum of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

11-808. Enforcement. (1) Minors. Before taking any enforcement action, a law enforcement officer who is notified of a possible violation of § 11-803 shall make an immediate investigation to determine whether or not the presence of the minor in a public place, motor vehicle, or establishment during curfew hours is a violation of that section. If the investigation reveals a violation and the minor has not previously been issued a warning, the officer shall issue a verbal warning to the minor to be followed by a written warning

mailed by the police department to the minor and his/her parent(s). If the minor has previously been issued a warning for a violation, the officer shall charge the minor with a violation of § 11-803 and shall issue a citation requiring the minor to appear in court. In either case, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, release the minor to his/her parent(s) or place the minor in a temporary care facility for a period not to exceed the remainder of the curfew hours so the parent(s) may retrieve the minor. If a minor refuses to give an officer his/her name and address or the name and address of his/her parent(s), or if no parent can be located before the end of the applicable curfew hours, or if located, no parent appears to accept custody of the minor, the minor may be taken to a crisis center or juvenile shelter and/or may be taken to a judge or juvenile intake officer of the juvenile court to be dealt with as required by law.

(2) Others. If an officer's investigation reveals that a person has violated §§ 11-803, 11-804, 11-805, or 11-806 of this chapter and the person has not been issued a warning with respect to a violation, the officer shall issue a verbal warning to the person to be followed by a written warning mailed by the police department to the person. If there has been a previous warning to the person, the officer shall charge the person with a violation and issue a citation directing the person to appear in court.

11-809. Violation and penalty. A violation of §§ 11-803, 11-804, 11-805, or 11-806 subsequent to receiving a verbal warning as provided in § 11-808 is punishable by a maximum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation.