

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VI REGULATING DONATION BINS, DONATION BOXES, OR RECEPTACLES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, PUBLICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City finds that donation bins have been placed throughout the City, including in parking lots and other exterior areas, often without adequate oversight or maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that donation bins support charitable giving and may include communicative elements, and the City does not intend to discourage lawful donation activity; and

WHEREAS, the City has received complaints and observed repeated issues related to the placement and maintenance of outdoor donation bins within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that unattended outdoor donation bins can lead to litter, illegal dumping, unsanitary conditions, and visual clutter, and may interfere with safe use of property and circulation; and

WHEREAS, the City has considered and, to the extent practicable, utilized enforcement, maintenance requirements, and other regulatory measures to address issues associated with outdoor donation bins, and finds that such measures have not adequately prevented recurring problems, including illegal dumping, overflow, and lack of accountability; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the adverse conditions associated with outdoor donation bins are not limited to isolated instances of noncompliance, but arise from the unattended and publicly accessible nature of such bins, which makes consistent oversight and maintenance difficult to achieve; and

WHEREAS, the City also finds that the presence of outdoor donation bins can contribute to visual clutter and diminish the aesthetic character of the community, even when maintained; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that limiting donation bins to controlled indoor environments reduces these impacts while allowing continued collection of donated goods in a more managed setting; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that donation bins located within enclosed interior spaces are subject to greater oversight, access control, and maintenance, reducing the likelihood of the adverse impacts associated with outdoor placement; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that temporary, event-based donation collection allows for supervision and control of donated materials, while permanently placed outdoor bins are typically unattended and more likely to result in the accumulation of debris and improper disposal; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that donations may continue to be solicited and collected through various methods, including indoor donation bins, attended drop-off locations, door-to-door collection, community events, advertising, online solicitation, and other lawful means; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that these methods provide continued opportunities for charitable giving without the adverse impacts associated with unattended outdoor donation bins; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the regulations adopted herein promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public while maintaining orderly use of property within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of League City, Texas, is hereby amended by adding a new **Article VI – Donation Bins**, to read as shows in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Savings. All rights and remedies which have accrued in favor of the City under this Ordinance and amendments thereto shall be and are preserved for the benefit of the City.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Codification. It is the intent of the City Council of the City of League City, Texas, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be codified in the City’s official Code of Ordinances as provided hereinabove.

Section 6. Publication and Effective Date. The City Secretary shall cause this Ordinance, or its caption, to be published in the official newspaper of the City of League City,

upon passage of such Ordinance. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage.

PASSED first reading the ____ day of _____, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED the ____ day of _____, 2026.

NICK LONG
Mayor

ATTEST:

DIANA M. STAPP
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHELLE L. VILLARREAL
City Attorney (mv)

EXHIBIT “A”

CHAPTER 70 – OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE VI. – DONATION BINS

Sec. 70-122 – Definitions

Donation Bin / Donation Box / Receptacle means any container, box, trailer, or similar device intended for public use to collect donated clothing, household goods, or other items for donation, resale, recycling, or redistribution.

Operator means any person or entity that owns, places, or services a donation bin.

Property Owner means any person or entity that owns, leases, controls, or possesses real property.

Sec. 70-123 – Restriction on Outdoor Donation Bins

- (a) Except as expressly allowed by this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person, including an operator or property owner, to place, maintain, or allow any donation bin outdoors within the City.
- (b) Donation bins may be placed outdoors only for temporary collection events not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours, provided they do not create a safety hazard.
- (c) For purposes of this section, “outdoors” means any exterior area not fully enclosed within a building.

Sec. 70-124 – Permitted Indoor Placement

- (a) Donation bins are permitted only within enclosed interior areas of:
 - (1) Multi-family residential buildings;
 - (2) Commercial buildings and retail establishments;
 - (3) Offices and places of employment;
 - (4) Educational facilities;
 - (5) Healthcare facilities;
 - (6) Government buildings;
 - (7) Places of public assembly.
- (b) Indoor placement must be authorized by the property owner or person in control of the premises.
- (c) Donation bins shall not obstruct exits, required means of egress, or fire protection systems, or otherwise create unsafe conditions as determined by the Fire Marshal or designee.
- (d) No more than one (1) donation bin shall be permitted within any single building.

Sec. 70-125 – Maintenance Requirements

The operator and property owner shall ensure that:

- (a) The donation bin is maintained in good condition;
- (b) Donated items remain within the bin;
- (c) Surrounding areas remain free of trash, debris, and discarded materials;
- (d) The bin is serviced regularly to prevent overflow.
- (e) The donation bin clearly displays current contact information for the operator or person responsible for the donation bin, including a telephone number.

Sec. 70-126 – Public Nuisance and Abatement

- (a) Any donation bin placed or maintained in violation of this Article is declared a public nuisance. The City shall provide notice to the operator or property owner, if reasonably ascertainable, and allow a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation. If the violation is not corrected within the time specified in the notice, the City may remove the donation bin and assess all costs of removal, storage, or disposal to the responsible party.
- (b) The City may remove a donation bin without prior notice if it poses an immediate threat to public health or safety.

Sec. 70-127 – Penalty

Any person violating this Article shall be subject to penalties as provided in this Code. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.