

ORDINANCE NO. 1397.20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA, AMENDING CHAPTER 12.04 (PARK USE REGULATIONS) OF THE CASA GRANDE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING RAMADA USAGE AND UNATTENDED PROPERTY; ESTABLISHING THE SEVERABILITY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Casa Grande maintains its parks and other public facilities for the general use and enjoyment of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City has seen an increase in persons camping and establishing living accommodations within the parks, including within the ramada areas, which impedes pedestrian travel and safety, limits the availability and willingness of families to use the parks and their amenities as intended, and has resulted in numerous complaints concerning the condition of the parks and ramadas as a result of persons leaving trash, debris, and personal property within the park areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of camping activities within the parks and other public park amenities, the City has received numerous complaints regarding, and City employees have seen and been forced to clean up human waste, debris, needles and other drug-related paraphernalia in the City's parks, which creates a safety hazard for the City's employees and users of the City's facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend its park rules to prohibit persons from abandoning personal property and from monopolizing the use of ramadas (without a reservation), which restricts other users from being able to enjoy the parks amenities on equal footing, in order to improve the public health, preserve the parks and other public property for the enjoyment, safety, comfort and convenience of the public, and to maintain a healthy and natural environment, as well as ensure the streets and public areas are readily safe, accessible, and available to the residents and public at large; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Casa Grande, in order to provide safe and sanitary park and similar public spaces, find that adoption of the amended park regulations is in the best interest of the City and the citizens of Casa Grande.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona, as follows:

SECTION 1. Amendment of Chapter 12.04

Title 12 of the Casa Grande Municipal Code is hereby amended by amending Chapter 12.04, entitled “Park Use Regulations”, as follows:

- A. **Section 12.04.040 – Permit required for certain activities** – is hereby amended by adding new number 7 under paragraph A to read:

7. Use of a ramada, without a reservation or permit therefor, for a period exceeding two consecutive hours. For purposes of this provision, use shall be deemed consecutive if occurring within the same six-hour period.

- B. New Section 12.04.130, to be entitled “Unattended property prohibited” shall be added to read in its entirety as follows:

12.04.130 – Unattended property prohibited

(A) Except as otherwise permitted by this section, no person may leave any personal property unattended for more than two (2) hours in any park. For purposes of this section unattended property shall mean property where the owner is not in the immediate vicinity of the property such that a City employee may readily and immediately identify the owner of the property.

(B) In order to provide for the safe operations of parks and parks events, the Director may designate areas or times where personal property may not be left unattended for any time period, establish limits on the amount and type of property that may be left unattended, or establish lesser, or greater, lengths of time that personal property may be unattended. Any such regulations shall be posted at the park.

(C) In the event unattended property, regardless of how long it has been unattended, interferes with the safe and orderly management of a park area or is causing damage to the park, it may be impounded immediately and disposed of in the manner set forth in Paragraph (D) of this Section.

(D) Any unattended property in violation of this Section may be removed by the City. The City may seize and destroy any hazardous and bulky items, debris, and other trash. Any remaining property shall be stored by the City for a total of ten (10) calendar days. Written notice shall be left at the site where the property was seized, or may be given directly to the owner of the property if known, explaining where the seized property is located, how to retrieve such property – including the cost of storage thereof, and how to contest the destruction or other disposal of the property. If a person fails to retrieve the abandoned property or fails to request a hearing concerning said destruction within ten (10) days of its collection, such property shall be destroyed at the expense of the violator or may, in the discretion of the City Manager, be otherwise disposed of by sale or donation. Any hearing so requested shall be conducted by the City Manager, or his designee, and shall be conducted without formal rules of evidence or procedure.

SECTION 2. Recitals. The Recitals above are fully incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this chapter, but they shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this chapter shall stand notwithstanding the validity of any part thereof.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective as of the 1st day of October, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 2025

Lisa N. Fitzgibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Adriana Carpio-Solis, MMC

Brett D. Wallace, City Attorney