

1 Introduced by Council Members Freeman, Salem, Newby, Diamond,
2 Pittman, Clark-Murray and Howland and Co-Sponsored by Council
3 Members Becton, Morgan, Carrico and Bowman:
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6 **ORDINANCE 2023-44**

7 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 656 (ZONING
8 CODE), PART 13 (SIGN REGULATIONS), SUBPART A
9 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTION 656.1309
10 (UNLAWFUL SIGN MESSAGES), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO
11 PROHIBIT UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS THAT ARE PROJECTED
12 ONTO BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES OR OTHER PLACES;
13 PROVIDING CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS;
14 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
15 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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17 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18 **Section 1. Amending Chapter 656 (Zoning Code), Part 13**
19 **(Sign Regulations), Subpart A (General Provisions), Section**
20 **656.1309 (Unlawful sign messages), Ordinance Code.** Chapter 656
21 (Zoning Code), Part 13 (Sign Regulations), Subpart A (General
22 Provisions), Section 656.1309 (Unlawful sign messages), *Ordinance*
23 *Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **CHAPTER 656**

25 * * *

26 **PART 13. - SIGN REGULATIONS**

27 **SUBPART A. - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

28 * * *

29 **Sec. 656.1309. Unlawful signs.~~Unlawful sign messages.~~**

- 30 (a) Projections of light, laser beams or any other medium
31 to form text, graphics, logos, or artwork upon

1 streets, walkways, fences, sign structures, land or
2 water surfaces, or exterior walls or other exterior
3 portions of buildings or any other structure are
4 prohibited, except that an owner may project a sign
5 onto an exterior portion of his or her own property,
6 building or structure if the area occupied by such
7 sign does not otherwise violate applicable sign
8 regulations included in this Part. The person or
9 business who owns or is advertised or identified on
10 the sign shall be presumed to have permitted the
11 placement of the sign in the absence of credible
12 evidence to the contrary and may be cited for
13 violation of this subsection by either the City's
14 Municipal Code Compliance Division or the Jacksonville
15 Sheriff's Office, and the person or business
16 installing or projecting the sign is also in violation
17 of this subsection. Violations of this subsection
18 shall constitute a class D offense; however,
19 projections of text, graphics, logos, or artwork onto
20 a building, structure or any other place (including
21 public spaces) without the consent of the owner or
22 person in control of the building, structure or space
23 shall constitute blight and graffiti, and pursuant to
24 Sections 806.13 and 125.69, Florida Statutes, these
25 violations shall constitute a second degree
26 misdemeanor punishable by a definite term of
27 imprisonment of up to 60 days (discretionary) and a
28 fine not less than \$2000 (non-discretionary), and any
29 equipment or vehicles used in furtherance of this
30 crime shall be seized by the Jacksonville Sheriff's
31 Office and forfeited to the City.~~Reserved.~~

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2 **Section 2. Codification Instructions.** The Codifier and
3 the Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter
4 and division "table of contents" consistent with the changes set
5 forth herein. Such editorial changes and any other necessary
6 changes to make the *Ordinance Code* consistent with the intent of
7 this legislation are approved and directed herein, and the changes
8 to the *Ordinance Code* shall be made forthwith and when
9 inconsistencies are discovered.

10 **Section 3. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
11 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
12 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
13 emergency is that publicly and privately owned lands, buildings and
14 structures are not appropriate venues for installation or display
15 of signage depicting personal or private messages or opinions
16 without the consent of the property owner. Such illegal
17 projections have recently been frequently used to publish the
18 personal messages of the projecting individual and contrary to the
19 objections of the owners of the spaces used to display such
20 personal messages. To ensure the types of displays prohibited by
21 this new Code provision can be immediately enforced by the City's
22 Municipal Code Compliance Division and the Jacksonville Sheriff's
23 Office, emergency passage upon introduction of this legislation is
24 necessary.

25 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
27 without the Mayor's signature.
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1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation prepared by: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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