

CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO.

- 2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO TITLE 7, CHAPTER 941, REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, ESTABLISHING DEFINITIONS, RATES, AND REGULATIONS FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE IN THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is necessary in the operation of the City's solid waste collection and disposal system to set rates and charges in order to provide sufficient funds for the costs and expenses of operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, County of Summit and State of Ohio, that:

<u>Section 1.</u> Title 7, Chapter 941, Refuse Collection and Disposal, is hereby amended and/or supplemented as follows (new text **Bold**; deleted text in strikethrough):

941.01 DEFINITIONS.

- (a) "Residential Unit" shall be held to designate or include the place of abode of a person or persons living separately or together as an independent family.
- (b) "Multiple Unit Residence or Apartment" shall be held to designate or include the grouping together of two or more Residential Units or apartments.
- (c) "Curbside" means close to the traveled portion of the street or roadway, but in such a manner as to avoid interference with the safe and free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- (d) "Construction Debris" shall mean any refuse or other substances or materials resulting from the construction, reconstruction, renovation or repair of any structure.
- (e) "Recyclable Material" shall mean those materials designated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Solid Waste Authority as recyclable. The Director of Public Service or the Director's designee shall define those recyclables to be included in the curbside recycle collection program for the City of Cuyahoga Falls.
 - (1) "Newspaper" means used or discarded newsprint which has a minimum contamination by food or other material;
 - (2) "Magazine" shall mean a periodical subscribed to or purchased from the newsstand which has both the outside cover and the inside pages coated with the same glossy material;
 - (3) "Metal Food Containers" means an aluminum, bi-metal, steel, tin-plated steel, or other metallic can used to package food or beverage products suitable for human or animal consumption;

(4) "Glass Food Containers" means a glass bottle or jar of any shape or size used to package food or beverage products suitable for human or animal consumption; and

- (5) "Plastic Container" means PET or HDPE containers only and no other plastic container is included.
- (f) "Recycling Cart" means a storage unit provided by the City in which recyclable material is to be placed and co-mingled by the occupants of each Residential Unit for curbside pickup.
- (g) "Recycling Facility" means a facility for the collection, sorting, processing, transfer or sale of recyclable materials for the purpose of reclaiming material therefrom.
- (h) "Yard Waste" means leaves, grass clippings, weeds, brush or branch clippings and small limbs. Branches and limbs cannot exceed two inches in diameter nor five feet in length and must be bundled and tied. Full service Residential Unit customers are permitted five bundles of brush a week without an additional fee.
- (i) "Yard Waste Cart" is a residential refuse container purchased by the City and issued to full service recycling customers for a deposit as determined by the Director of Public Service or designee. The carts are suitable for semi-automated and automated collection and can be requested in Large or Small size.
- (j) "Composting" means the controlled biological decomposition of organic solid wastes.
- (k) "Hazardous Waste" means any substance designated by the Ohio EPA as hazardous that, if handled or disposed of improperly, poses a potential threat to people and the environment.
- (l) "Small Quantity Generators (SQG)" of hazardous wastes as listed in the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Register Volume 45/No. 98/Subpart D, as amended from time to time, shall be held to designate all businesses that generate between one hundred and one thousand kilograms of hazardous wastes per month.
- (m) "Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG)" of hazardous wastes as listed in the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Register Volume 45/No. 98/Subpart "D", as amended from time to time, shall be held to designate all businesses that generate below one hundred kilograms of hazardous wastes per month.
- (n) "Corrugated Cardboard" is a three-ply box material, wavy layer sandwiched between two paperboard-layers, used for packing.
- (o) "Drop-Off Site" is a site designated by the Superintendent where residents can drop off authorized recyclables.
- (p) "Large Cart" is a residential refuse container purchased by the City and issued to full service customers. The carts are suitable for semi-automated and automated collection and range from 95-96 gallons.
- (q) "Small Cart" is a residential refuse container purchased by the City and issued to limited service customers. The carts are suitable for semi-automated and automated collection and range from 48-65 gallons.

(r) "Roll-off" is a movable container or dumpster with a capacity of 10 or 15 cubic yards used for the purpose of removing multiple items and items too large for regular garbage pickup, except for any materials deemed to be "Hazardous Waste".

941.02 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SERVICE.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the occupant of each single-family dwelling to secure solid waste collection and disposal services from the City of Cuyahoga Falls Division of Sanitation. Unoccupied single-family dwellings are not eligible for weekly curbside solid waste collection. It shall be the duty of the owner of a two-family, three-family, or four family dwelling to secure solid waste collection and disposal services from the City of Cuyahoga Falls Division of Sanitation. All Residential Units shall be serviced by the City of Cuyahoga Falls Division of Sanitation, except dwellings with two or more units utilizing commercial boxes one cubic yard or larger may be serviced by the City or any licensed commercial hauler. All commercial and industrial businesses shall make provision for collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and collection of recyclables with the City of Cuyahoga Falls, or any private commercial hauler licensed to operate in the City of Cuyahoga Falls.
- (b) All Residential units shall be charged for the availability of such garbage and rubbish collection service unless such fees are excused or waived by the Director of Public Service or designee for good cause or unnecessary hardship. Use by the occupant or owner of other service, a garbage disposal, or incinerator shall not constitute good cause.
- (c) Solid waste collection and disposal services shall be secured and served a minimum of once weekly for each "Residential Unit." Industrial or Commercial establishments shall be served at least bi-weekly, except for food service establishments which shall be served weekly at a minimum. The City may require additional service when overflow litter, unsightly nuisances and/or health related issues are apparent.
- (d) It is the intent of this chapter that each owner or tenant of a residential, commercial or industrial unit within the corporate limits of Cuyahoga Falls shall make separate provisions for the collection and disposal of solid waste. There shall be no doubling up of service in which more than one unit uses a common service or containers except as provided by this chapter or as allowed by the Director of Public Service or designee.
- (e) In an instance of a "Multiple Unit Residence or Apartment," it shall be the duty of the property owner to furnish adequate sanitation service for the entire "Multiple Unit Residence or Apartment."
- (f) Small Quantity Generators (SQG) of hazardous wastes shall follow the prescribed policies for collection and disposal of hazardous wastes outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

- 164 There shall be a special Limited Service Program offered to qualifying customers 165 who are the owner occupants of a single residential unit and who make application therefor with the Utility Billing Office. The limited service program 166 entitles customers to the collection and disposal of one City issued Small Cart of 167 bagged solid waste per week set at curbside. The Limited Service Program includes 168 curbside recycle collection, but there is no recycle credit applied. Pickup of any 169 additional material will require an additional charge as determined by the Director 170 171 of Public Service or designee, based on the amount and type of material to be 172 collected. Bulky items, furniture, appliances, etc. and bundled brush service is 173 limited to the Citywide spring cleanup period designated by the Director of Public 174 Service or designee.
 - (h) When the City issues a sanitation cart, that cart must be used for curbside sanitation service.
 - (i) All carts remain the property of the City. The customer is responsible for cleaning the cart, as required. The cart shall remain at the location of sanitation service if the occupant moves.

941.03 RATES FOR COLLECTION.

(a) Full Service

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Each full service customer shall pay the following per month effective January 1, 20226:

Single unit - twenty two dollars and forty cents (\$22.40) twenty-five dollars and forty cents (\$25.40)

Two unit - thirty six dollars and thirty cents (\$36.30) forty dollars and eighty cents (\$40.80)

Three unit - fifty dollars and twenty cents (\$50.20) fifty-six dollars and twenty cents (\$56.20)

Four unit - sixty four dollars and ten cents (\$64.10) seventy-one dollars and sixty cents (\$71.60)

Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish rates

January 1, 2027:

Single unit - twenty-seven dollars and ninety cents (\$27.90)

Two unit - forty-four dollars and fifty-five cents (\$44.55)

Three unit - sixty-one dollars and twenty cents (\$61.20)

Four unit - seventy-seven dollars and eighty-five cents (\$77.85)

Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish rates

January 1, 2028:

Single unit - twenty-nine dollars and ninety cents (\$29.90)

Two unit - forty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents (\$47.55)

Three unit - sixty-five dollars and twenty cents (\$65.20)

Four unit - eighty-two dollars and eighty-five cents (\$82.85)

Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish rates

215	(b)	Full Service with Recycling Credit
216		Each full service customer who participates in the curbside recycling program
217		shall pay the following per month effective January 1, 20226:
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219 220		Single unit - twenty dollars and forty cents (\$20.40) twenty-three dollars and forty cents (\$23.40)
221 222		Two unit - thirty two dollars and thirty cents (\$32.30) thirty-six dollars and eighty cents (\$36.80)
223 224		Three unit - forty four dollars and twenty cents (\$44.20) fifty dollars and twenty cents (\$50.20)
225 226		Four unit - fifty six dollars and ten-cents (\$56.10) sixty-three dollars and sixty cents (\$63.60)
227		Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish rates
228		These rates reflect a two dollar (\$2.00) per unit credit for recycling.
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230		January 1, 2027:
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232		Single unit - twenty-five dollars and ninety cents (\$25.90)
233		Two unit - forty dollars and fifty-five cents (\$40.55)
234		Three unit - fifty-five dollars and twenty cents (\$55.20)
235		Four unit - sixty-nine dollars and eighty-five cents (\$69.85)
236		Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish
237		rates
238		
239		These rates reflect a two dollar (\$2.00) per unit credit for recycling.
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241		January 1, 2028:
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243		Single unit - twenty-seven dollars and ninety cents (\$27.90)
244		Two unit - forty-three dollars and fifty-five cents (\$43.55)
245		Three unit - fifty-nine dollars and twenty cents (\$59.20)
246		Four unit - seventy-four dollars and eighty-five cents (\$74.85)
247		Five or more units - The Director of Public Service or designee will furnish
248		rates
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250		These rates reflect a two dollar (\$2.00) per unit credit for recycling.
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252	(c)	Full Service with Recycling Credit-Condominiums.
253	(0)	Full Service with Recycling Credit-Condominants.
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		Effective January 1, 2026:
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256		Each full service/recycle condominium customer shall pay eleven dollars and
257		ninety cents (\$11.90) thirteen dollars and forty cents (\$13.40) per month.
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259		Effective January 1, 2027:
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261		Each full service/recycle condominium customer shall pay fourteen dollars
262		and sixty-five cents (\$14.65) per month.
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Effective January 1, 2028:

Each full service/recycle condominium customer shall pay fifteen dollars and sixty-five cents (\$15.65) per month.

Condominium units shall be billed for service through the condominium associations. This unit cost includes the two dollars (\$2.00) per unit credit for recycling.

(d) Full service Large Cart Customers. Full service customers who have been issued 95 or 96-gallon carts shall have the option to request additional Large Carts at a cost of five dollars (\$5.00) per cart per month.

941.04 LIMITED SERVICE CUSTOMERS.

(a) Effective January 1, 20226, each Limited Service Program customer shall pay sixteen dollars and ninety (\$16.90) nineteen dollars and ninety cents (\$19.90) per month for collection and disposal of solid waste as outlined in Section 941.02(g). This service requires recycling.

Effective January 1, 2027, each Limited Service Program customer shall pay twenty-two dollars and forty cents (\$22.40) per month for collection and disposal of solid waste as outlined in Section 941.02(g). This service requires recycling.

Effective January 1, 2028, each Limited Service Program customer shall pay twenty-four dollars and forty cents (\$24.40) per month for collection and disposal of solid waste as outlined in Section 941.02(g). This service requires recycling.

(b) Each Limited Service Program customer currently enrolled in this program as of December 31, 2003, and who is 65 years of age or older and who has provided proof of age to the Utility Billing Office shall pay eight dollars and fifty cents (\$8.50) per month effective January 1, 2005, for the collection and disposal of solid waste as outlined in Section 941.02(g). Effective April 1, 2004 and thereafter, the rate for this service is ten dollars and fifty cents (\$10.50) per month for all newly enrolled customers.

c) Limited Service Customers are required to recycle. Limited Service Customers are eligible for bundled brush service, for bulky item service, and for appliance service except for special fee-based pick-up service if established for appliances with refrigerants only during the City-wide cleanup period(s) designated by the Director of Public Service or the Service Director's designee. The Director of Public Service or designee shall establish rates for these extra services.

941.05 ROLL OFF SERVICE

 (a) Rates for roll off service include 10 cubic yard or 15 cubic yard containers. Container rentals need to be scheduled and will be dropped off for seven days with pick up scheduled on the eighth day. The Director of Public Service is hereby authorized to adjust this fee in January of each calendar year beginning in 2028, provided that no annual adjustment, whether an increase or decrease, may be made in excess of five percent (5%) of the rate then in effect except by ordinance.

(b) Weekly Residential Rates

10 cubic yard containers \$300 15 cubic yard containers \$370 Each additional day of rental is \$35 per day.

(c) Weekly Landlord and Contractor Rates

10 cubic yard containers \$365 15 cubic yard containers \$440 Each additional day of rental is \$35 per day.

941.056 EXTRA CHARGES AND SPECIAL RATES.

(a) Rates for collection and disposal for full service residential units shall entitle the householder to the equivalent of one pickup per week of an ordinary and reasonable accumulation of household refuse. Any unusual accumulation of solid waste occasioned by landscaping, tree or hedge removal or other extensive trimming, remodeling, demolition, construction or other activity is not included in the rate for collection and disposal services. However, any abnormal amounts of material may be removed by the Division of Sanitation for an additional charge as established by the Director of Public Service or designee.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Director of Public Service or designee shall have the authority to charge customers additional fees up to and including ninety dollars (\$90.00) when the amount of material placed at the curb for pickup is beyond a reasonable amount. When the additional fee for the excessive amount of municipal solid waste exceeds ninety dollars (\$90.00), the Director of Public Service or designee will make every effort to gain customer approval prior to service.

(c) When an order for service is placed by putting waste at the curb, and there is no active Sanitation account, the owner of said property shall be held responsible for payment of charges associated with the collection of refuse by either direct billing or as an adjustment to any Utility Services account or as a lien against said property. If not paid, the charge(s) shall be certified by the Finance Director to the County Fiscal Officer and shall constitute a lien on the premises thus improved by the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

(d) The Director of Public Service or designee may establish rates for the curbside removal of refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units, dehumidifiers and any other appliance containing a refrigerant. Said rate shall be per unit and shall be added to the customer's monthly Sanitation bill.

(e) Individuals living outside, but contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls may secure solid waste collection and disposal services if permission is first secured from the Director of Public Service or designee.

In any cases for which rate or classification has not been provided herein, there is vested in the Director of Public Service or designee the authority to establish rates based on the value of the services to the individual, business, firm or corporation.

941.067 COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS.

- (a) No person, business firm or corporation shall, within the limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, throw any refuse or solid waste upon the ground or bury the same upon any premises, public or private. Further, any person, business, firm or corporation whose premises or adjoining public right-of-way constitutes a nuisance due to the accumulation of litter, rubbish, refuse or solid waste thereon shall be given written notice by the Chief Code Enforcement Officer to rid the property of such nuisance. Such notice shall prescribe a period of seven days in which to comply. Upon non-compliance after the expiration of seven days after receipt of notice, the City may undertake to rid the premises of such nuisance using its facilities. The cost of labor and equipment thus expended for the collection and disposal of thy accumulation shall be billed to the person, business, firm or corporation in charge of the property, which bill shall be paid within a period of thirty days from receipt thereof. If not paid, the charge shall be certified by the Finance Director to the County Fiscal Officer and shall constitute a lien on the premises thus improved by the City.
- (b) No person, business, firm or corporation, other than employees of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, or employees of licensed haulers, during the course of their employment, shall collect, haul, remove or dispose of any bag, bin or container designated by the City of Cuyahoga Falls for recycling or recyclables, or remove, collect, haul or dispose of any other material placed at the curbside for collection by the City of Cuyahoga Falls. No person shall dispose of any solid waste in any receptacle not owned by or under the control of the person without the consent of the owner or person in control of the receptacle.

941.078 WASTE CONTAINERS.

- (a) During City wide cleanup periods, no single residential container for manual curbside collection containing trash or recyclables, regardless of size, shall exceed forty-five pounds gross weight. It shall be the duty of each family, person, business, firm, etc. to provide suitable portable approved containers for holding all solid waste. Said containers should be watertight and provided with suitable handles and a tight-fitting lid which should not be removed except when necessary in the use of such containers. Each container, unless provided by the City of Cuyahoga Falls, shall have a capacity of not more than 45 gallons. Fifty-five gallon drums or barrels are not permitted to be used as trash containers for curbside collection. All solid waste, regardless of container size, must be bagged or contained.
- (b) All garbage and solid waste, before being deposited in said container, shall be thoroughly drained of all water and other fluids and securely wrapped in paper or plastic bag or otherwise contained. Each bag, box and/or container shall not exceed 45 pounds gross weight. Loose waste is not acceptable. Loose pet feces and cat litter is not acceptable. Pet feces and cat litter must be properly doubled bagged.
- (c) The word "garbage" shall be held to designate or include all waste of fish, fowl, fruit, vegetables and animal matter resulting from the preparation of food for human consumption.

(d) The words "solid waste" shall not include Yard Waste, unbundled brush, tree trunks, logs or large parts of trees; demolition material; broken or whole bricks or cement, stone, rock, gravel, cinders, asphalt, earth, vehicle parts or tires, motor oil, lead-acid batteries, gasoline tanks or propane tanks.

- (e) No person, business, firm or corporation shall cause to conceal and/or mix hazardous/toxic waste or Yard Wastes with Solid Waste. Any household hazardous waste must be suitably prepared by the consumer for proper disposal. In addition, no solid waste shall be included in Recycle Carts or in Yard Waste Carts.
- (f) In no case shall solid waste or containers for same be curbside earlier than 4:30 p.m. of the day preceding the normal collection day unless scheduling approval has been granted by the Director of Public Service or designee and containers shall be removed from curbside no later than twenty-four hours after collection. All solid waste containers must be placed curbside no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of service.
- (g) Bundled hedge and tree trimmings are to be securely tied in bundles not to exceed two feet in diameter and five feet in length. Full Service Customers are entitled to five bundles per week. Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste shall be collected only when placed at the curbside in Yard Waste Carts issued by the City of Cuyahoga Falls. City Yard Waste Carts must be placed curbside no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of service.

941.089 PRIVATE HAULER REGULATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COLLECTIONS.

- (a) No person, business, firm or corporation shall engage in or carry on the business of collecting, hauling and/or disposing of solid waste in the City unless an annual license has first been secured from the Director of Public Service. The cost of a license for the collecting, hauling and/or disposing of refuse shall be seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) per truck. Licenses shall be obtained during specified times only and are not transferable.
- (b) Each refuse license issued pursuant to this section shall be applied for between January 1 and March 1 on an annual basis, due and payable no later than March 1st of each year. It shall be the duty of each company to pick up an application packet for each vehicle to be licensed at the Division of Sanitation Office after January 1 and submit the required documentation for approval in a timely manner. Failure to submit an application by May 1 may result in nonrenewal of the license.
- (c) Each vehicle shall be inspected at the City Garage by representatives from the City Garage and/or the Division of Sanitation prior to licensing, and each month thereafter, without charge, for the purpose of determining that the vehicle is mechanically in good working order and safe to traverse the streets of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and that the body is so constructed as to prevent leakage. The City will also accept a copy of the current annual United States Department of Transportation inspection form that has been completed in accordance with 49 CFR 396. In addition, each licensed vehicle must carry Single Limit Liability Insurance in the minimum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

- (d) It shall be the duty of each applicant of a refuse license to submit to the City each time a license is issued, and at other such times and in such other forms as the Director of Public Service may direct, a certified list of all residential, commercial and industrial, and hazardous waste customers serviced within the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.
 - (e) The City shall furnish an identification plate for each licensed vehicle indicating the name of the City and a numerical identification. This I.D. must be attached to the vehicle at all times in a prominent position, readily apparent from the street side of each vehicle operating in Cuyahoga Falls. Licensed vehicles and all equipment used within the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls shall be identified with the name and telephone number of the licensed company.
 - (f) In the event a licensed vehicle is temporarily taken out of service for repairs, it shall be the duty of the license holder to immediately supply the Division of Sanitation Superintendent with the make, year, serial number and registration number of any substituted vehicle, as well as the approximate length of time such substitution is expected. If a licensed vehicle is permanently taken out of service and replaced with another vehicle, then a new license shall be obtained before operating said vehicle within the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, provided that there shall be no additional fee for licensing said replacement vehicle.
- (g) No person, business, firm or corporation engaged in the business of hauling or disposing of solid waste shall collect, haul and dispose of business, commercial or industrial solid waste between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except during daylight savings time when operations may commence at 6:00 a.m., where such business, industrial or commercial establishment is located within one hundred fifty (150) yards of any residence, residential duplex, apartment or apartment complex.
- (h) All persons, businesses, firms and corporations so licensed shall comply with all provisions of this ordinance. Any person, business, firm or corporation found to be in violation of City ordinances during a current licensing year shall automatically lose licensing privileges for the following licensing year.

941.0910 DISABLED CUSTOMERS.

The Director of Public Service shall adopt guidelines for customers who through disability cannot place waste at curbside. Approval for this service shall include written confirmation from a medical doctor that such disability precludes the customer from placing waste at curbside and that there is no able-bodied person living at that address. The service is for household waste and recycling only and does not include bulky items, appliances, nor Yard Waste.

941.101 SERVICE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES.

The Division of Sanitation shall establish guidelines and procedures to ensure safe, efficient, and consistent service to the residents and customers of Cuyahoga Falls.

941.1**12** CITY EXEMPT.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is expressly exempt from the provisions of this chapter pertaining to solid waste license or any other section of this chapter which might be construed as requiring the City of Cuyahoga Falls to pay any fee or obtain any license

941.99 PENALTY.

> Any person, business, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be cited for such violation. Each and every day on which any such person, business, firm or corporation continues to violate the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a separate misdemeanor offense; and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and/or ninety days in jail, and shall pay costs of prosecution.

> Section 2. That Ordinance No. 118-2004 and any other ordinances or resolutions or portions of ordinances and resolutions inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed, but any ordinances and resolutions not inconsistent herewith and which have not previously been repealed are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances.

Section 4. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the inhabitants thereof, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: 12-8-2025

Clerk of Council

11/24/25