

AN ORDINANCE
TO BE ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE A OF CHAPTER 1, GENERAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, OF PART 7, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (2003), TO PROHIBIT SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES FROM BEING PLACED IN ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OR ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, OPERATED IN ANY PUBLIC-RIGHT-OF-WAY, OR OFFERED FOR USE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled, and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

SECTION 1: Findings. Dockless electric scooters and bicycles, available to be rented on demand from unstaffed locations, have suddenly and unexpectedly appeared in cities throughout the country, and have rapidly proliferated in an unregulated environment. Frequently, they are abandoned by users on streets, sidewalks and other public places creating safety concerns, especially for vulnerable pedestrians. Due to the spontaneous appearance of these rentals and their appeal to young people, shared mobility devices are nearly always operated by users—often minors—without helmets, in contravention of state law. For the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the City Council has initiated urgency legislation to proactively address the hazards posed by shared mobility devices placed in and operated on public property.

SECTION 2: That Article A., In General, of Chapter 1, General Traffic Regulations, of Part 7, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia (2003) be amended by inserting a new Section 7-1054 entitled “Shared Mobility Devices”, as follows:

Section 7-1054. Shared Mobility Devices.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit Shared Mobility Devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the City, so as to allow for adequate pedestrian traffic flow and to promote public safety.

(b) Definition. For purposes of this ordinance, “shared mobility device” means any wheeled device, other than an automobile, motorcycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric assisted bicycle, electric personal transportation vehicles, moped, golf cart, or personal transportation vehicle as those devices are defined by state law, that is powered by a motor; is accessed via an on-demand portal, whether a smartphone application, membership card, or similar method; is operated by a private entity that owns, manages, and maintains devices for shared use by members of the public; and is available to members of the public in unstaffed, self-service locations.

(c) General Requirements. It is unlawful to park, leave standing, leave lying, abandon, or otherwise place a shared mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City. It is unlawful to operate a shared mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City. It is unlawful to provide or offer for use a shared mobility device anywhere within the City.

(d) Violations; Impoundment. Violations of this ordinance shall be punishable as provided for in Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 1-1013 of this Code. Police officers, parking enforcement officers, deputy city marshals, those city officials otherwise designated by the City Manager, and any party contracted by the City to specifically impound shared mobility devices are authorized to impound any shared mobility device that has been offered for use, placed in a public right-of-way or on public property, or operated in a public right-of-way or on public property in violation of this ordinance. The impoundment shall be subject to an impound and storage fee established by City Council as set forth in the annual Revenue Ordinance.

SECTION 3: If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5: This Section shall be effective when the Mayor affixes his signature below.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: _____

Eddie W. DeLoach, Mayor

Clerk of Council