



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police  
**DATE:** September 3, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to Adopt Urgency Ordinance Regarding Homeless Encampments

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**Description** Ordinance establishing clear policies to urgently address homeless encampments.

### **Background and Analysis:**

On July 25, 2024, after the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which ruled that cities can enforce camping laws, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order directing all state and local municipalities to establish and enforce policies that address the urgent issue of homeless encampments across California.

The proposed Camping Ordinance aligns with Governor Newsom's executive order and provides a framework for the City to effectively address illegal camping. The proposed ordinance will provide the City with the necessary authority to manage and enforce regulations related to illegal camping within City limits by prohibiting camping on public and private property without proper authorization, empowering City staff to enforce these regulations, and authorizing the cleanup of abandoned campsites to ensure public spaces remain safe and clean.

The proposed ordinance was publicly posted on August 23, 2024. Additionally, the approval of this ordinance will include an update to Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 10.08, which will remove the provision that currently allows individuals to camp in their vehicles for longer than one day. This update is necessary to ensure consistency and to prevent prolonged vehicle camping, which can contribute to public health and safety issues.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36937(b), an ordinance can be adopted immediately on an urgency basis if passed by a four-fifths vote of the City Council for the preservation of public peace, health, or safety. Given the urgency to comply with

the Governor's executive order and address public health concerns related to illegal camping, it is recommended that this ordinance be adopted immediately.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated cost to prepare the report is \$850. The Police Department currently has a robust homeless outreach program in place under the adopted budget. No additional costs are anticipated and if approved, this ordinance will further enhance current efforts rather than require new or additional resources.

**Recommended Action:**

Hold a Public Hearing and adopt effective immediately if passed by a four-fifths vote, "An Urgency Ordinance of the City of Beaumont, California, Adding Chapter 9.43 'Camping' to the Beaumont Municipal Code and Amending Certain Provisions of Chapter 10.08 Related to 'Parking'".

**Attachments:**

- A. Proposed Ordinance
- B. Exhibit A to Ordinance
- C. Proposed Parking Ordinance Edits