

ORDINANCE NO.: 172-2025  
INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 371.06 (b) OF CHAPTER 371 OF THE TRAFFIC CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS REGARDING THE USE OF HIGHWAY/STREET FOR SOLICITING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Mayor/Director of Public Safety and the Chief of Police through citizen complaints and direct observation that minor children are soliciting monetary donations for youth sports teams by going into the traveled portion of public streets to request the donations from occupants of vehicles that are at traffic stop lights;

WHEREAS, the foregoing practice is extremely unsafe for the minor children or for any adult to do so and is also unsafe for motorists and constitutes an annoyance to the public;

WHEREAS, Section 371.06 (b) of the City's Traffic Code prohibits the foregoing actions but this provision also provides that the City Council can pass an ordinance to permit charitable organizations to perform such solicitations but there is no evidence of such an ordinance being adopted in the past several years;

WHEREAS, adults have been observed with the minor children who have been soliciting donations in this manner and those adults should not be permitting the minors to perform such hazardous and unsafe activities and, therefore, those adults should be subject to enforcement of the prohibition against this practice of solicitation;

WHEREAS, this Council, therefore, desires to amend Section 371.06 (b) of the Codified Ordinances to protect minor children and adults from the hazardous and unsafe solicitation of donations in public streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: Section 371.06, subdivision (b), of Chapter 371 of the Traffic Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Richmond Heights is hereby amended only at subdivision (b) to hereinafter provide as follows:

**371.06 USE OF HIGHWAY FOR SOLICITING; RIDING ON OUTSIDE OF VEHICLES.**

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(b) (1) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, n~~ No person shall stand on a highway or street for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, donations or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle.

**(2) If the person who violates subdivision (b)(1) of this section is a minor, any person age eighteen (18) or older who supervises, is in charge of, or has any authority over said minor and is present at the site of the violation by the minor shall also be liable for such violation under this section.**

~~Council, by ordinance, may authorize the issuance of a permit to a charitable organization to allow a person acting on behalf of the organization to solicit charitable contributions from the occupant of a vehicle by standing on a highway, other than a freeway, as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.051(A), that is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality. The permit shall be valid for only one period or time, which shall be specified in the permit, in any calendar year. Council also may specify the locations where contributions may be solicited and may impose any other restrictions on or requirements regarding the manner in which the solicitations are to be conducted that Council considers advisable.~~

~~(3) As used herein, "charitable organization" means an organization that has received from the Internal Revenue Service a currently valid ruling or determination letter recognizing the tax exempt status of the organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code."~~

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(g) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

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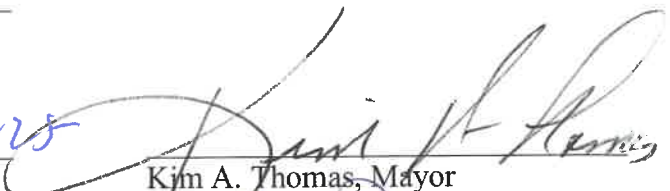
Section 2. Existing subdivision 371.06(b) of the Traffic Code of the City's Codified Ordinances, and any and all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict are repealed.

Section 3: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4: This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens, visitors and motorists in the City of Richmond Heights in order to immediately protect minor children, adults and motorists from hazardous and unsafe situations; and provided it receives approval of two-thirds of the members of Council, shall be in full force and effect from and after its approval by the Mayor, or otherwise take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period provided by law.

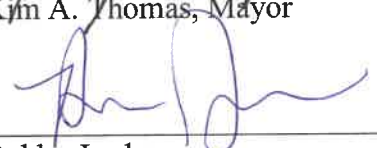
PASSED: December 23, 2025

APPROVED: December 23, 2025

  
Kim A. Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST: Tracey Blair

Tracey Blair  
Clerk of Council

  
Bobby Jordan  
President of Council