

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE IX
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN
ADDING SECTION 16-167, "HATE-BASED INTIMIDATION"**

WHEREAS, Section 1-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown allows for the amendment of the Code of Ordinances from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Georgetown is home to a diverse population representing different races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, genders and gender identities, physical and mental disabilities, ages, and political affiliations and attracts and welcomes similarly diverse visitors; and

WHEREAS, crimes that are motivated by hate or bias toward any individual or group because of actual or perceived race, religion, national identity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, age, or political affiliation are an indignity to human rights; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to deter crimes motivated by such hate or bias and provide separate appropriate penalties in addition to the punishment for the underlying violation of the criminal ordinances of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council, having the authority to adopt ordinances that are not inconsistent with the City Code of Ordinances, the Constitutions of the United States and the state of South Carolina, and laws of the state of South Carolina and further having the authority and duty to promote and protect the security and general welfare of all its residents and visitors, and to preserve the peace and maintain order within its borders, desire to create the separate offense of hate-based intimidation and to provide for appropriate penalties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, in council duly assembled, that Article IX of Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown shall be amended to add Section 16-167, formerly reserved, as follows:

Article IX Offenses Against Morals

§16-167 Hate-Based Intimidation

a. Offense defined.

A person who commits a crime in the city in violation of another section of this Chapter, or in violation of any state criminal statute, with the intent to cause harm, injury, or damage to the person or property of a another person, or to cause that person to fear harm, injury, or property damage because of the actual or perceived race, religion,

national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, age, and political affiliation of the person, is guilty of the separate offense of hate-based intimidation.

b. Penalties.

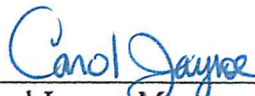
Any person found in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to punishment for a misdemeanor as set out in section 1-16 of this Code. The sentence imposed shall be consecutive to the sentence for the underlying criminal offense unless the court articulates on the record the reasons why the sentences should run concurrently. Any sentence may be suspended upon completion by the defendant of appropriate education, counseling, or community service, as ordered by the court.

In addition to the penalty, the court may order restitution up to the limits of the court's jurisdiction for actual money damages incurred by the victim of this offense directly related to the underlying criminal offense.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ATTEST:

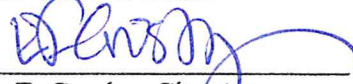

Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk


Carol Jayroe, Mayor

First Reading: 06/18/25

Second Reading: 07/16/25

Approved as to Form:


Elise F. Crosby, City Attorney