

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
TOWN OF IRMO)

ORDINANCE 25 – 12

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE IRMO MUNICIPAL
ORDINANCE, OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, TO ADD
SECTION 22-72, HATE INTIMIDATION**

WHEREAS, the residents and visitors of the Town of Irmo are a diverse collection of individuals representing a multitude of races, colors, creeds, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, physical and mental disabilities, and national origins; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Irmo values and wishes to protect its residents and visitors irrespective of their race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, crimes that are motivated by bias or hate towards any person or persons, in whole or in part, because of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or national origin of any person are an affront to the commonly held values of the citizens of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina has yet to adopt a statewide Hate Crime Legislation, and is only one of two states in the United States who have yet to adopt such protections for its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Irmo also desires to enact a new section of its Code of Ordinances in order to protect its residents and visitors and deter crimes motivated by bias or hate towards any persons or persons, in whole or in part, because of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or national origin of any person, and provide separate appropriate penalties in addition to the punishment for the underlying violation of the ordinances of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is in the interest of the Town and the public, to enact a new Section 22-72 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled "Hate Intimidation," to read as follows:

Section 22-72.- Hate intimidation

- a) A person who violates another section of this chapter with the intent to intimidate another person or persons, in whole or in part, because of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or national origin of the other person or persons, including any act of antisemitism, is also guilty of the separate offense of hate intimidation and shall be punished as provided by subsection (c) of this section. For purposes of this section, "antisemitism" refers to the definition set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

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- b) In addition, no person shall disseminate hate materials on any public property or on any commercial property or on any residential property without the express permission of the owner of the residential property within the incorporated area of the Town of Irmo. For purposes of this section, "hate materials" refers to writings intended to intimidate another person or persons on a basis as described in subsection (a) of this section.
- c) A person who violates this section shall be punished as provided in Section 1-8 of the Town Code. The sentences for the separate offenses shall run consecutive to one another unless the court specifies on the record the reason why they should run concurrently.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED and ordered by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Irmo, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled on this 16th day of September, 2025, that the Town of Irmo Code of Municipal Ordinance is hereby amended.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of September, 2025.


William O. Danielson, *Mayor*

ATTEST:



Lisa Hancock, *Municipal Clerk*

1st Reading: August 19, 2025

2nd Reading: September 16, 2025