CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM:
Council Bill No. 2026-007 - AN ORDINANCE repealing and replacing the Joplin City Code, Chapter 82 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article III - Offenses Against Public Peace; Division I. - Generally; and specifically, Section 82-74 - Harassment; and establishing a time for such ordinance to become effective.

MEETING DATE
June 1, 2026

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill No. 2026-007

REVIEWED BY
City Attorney, Peter Edwards; Chief of Police, Richard Pearson; and City Manager, Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY
This council bill repeals antiquated ordinance language and replaces the language to comport with the statutory misdemeanor violation of RSMo. 565.091. *Harassment, second degree*.

BACKGROUND
The antiquated language found in 82-74 unnecessarily limits harassment to communications "in writing or by telephone." The statutory language that replaces 82-74 is broad in its scope to encompass any form of harassment, either in person, by phone, or in writing. The statutory language also provides a definition of "emotional distress" as stated in RSMo. 565.002(7).

FUNDING SOURCE
N/A

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on First Reading.