COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-007 ORDINANCE NO. _____

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.

WHEREAS, the Harassment ordinance was last updated in 1999, by Ordinance No. 99-205; and requires replacement in order to comport with state statute; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that updating the Joplin City Code is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Joplin.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 82 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article III - Offenses Against Public Peace; Division I. - Generally; Section 82-74, *Harassment*, be repealed and replaced as follows:

"Sec. 82-74. - *Harassment.*

1. ~~(a)~~ A person commits the ~~ordinance violation~~ offense of harassment if he or she, ~~for the purpose of frightening or disturbing another person,~~ without good cause, engages in any act with the purpose to cause emotional distress to another person.

~~(1) Communicates in writing or by telephone a threat to commit a crime against the personal or real property of the other person, or assault any person;~~

~~(2) Makes a telephone call or communication in writing and uses coarse language offensive to one of reasonable sensibility;~~

~~(3) Makes a telephone call anonymously; or~~

~~(4) Makes repeated telephone calls.~~

~~(b) Any person who commits the ordinance violation of harassment, upon conviction, may be punished, upon conviction, in accordance with section 1-5.~~

2. The term "emotional distress" means something markedly greater than the level of uneasiness, nervousness, unhappiness, or the like which are commonly experienced in day-to-day living.

3. This section shall not apply to activities of federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement officers conducting investigations of violations of federal, state, county, or municipal law.

4. Any person having been found guilty of violating this section shall be punished as provided in section 1-5 of this Code of Ordinances."

Section 2. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect twenty (20) days and after its passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this _____ day of _____, 2026, by a vote of _____.

_____
Brian "Rob" O'Brian, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney