CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM:
Council Bill No. 2025-012 – AN ORDINANCE amending the criminal code of the City of Joplin Chapter 82 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article V. - Offenses Against Health and Safety, by enacting a new section prohibiting the displacement of transient individuals; and establishing a time for this ordinance to become effective.

MEETING DATE
October 20, 2025

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill No. 2025-012

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

SUMMARY
This council bill imposes a penalty punishable by Section 1-5, for any individual, entity, or agent thereof, causing the unsanctioned displacement of a transient individual within the City of Joplin, with specific language describing the prohibition, definitions, and including a number of legitimate exceptions.

BACKGROUND
Over the last few years, the City has confirmed several instances of the prohibited conduct addressed within the proposed ordinance. Displaced transient individuals have put a strain on public resources and led to increased crime, drug activity, and other health and safety concerns. Additionally, displaced transient individuals deplete the already limited resources available to local residents experiencing homelessness. This ordinance is designed to prioritize citizens, resources, community health and safety, and deter other jurisdictions from the reckless displacement of problematic transient individuals.

FUNDING SOURCE
N/A

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