

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-24

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS
AMENDING TITLE XIII OF THE CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS
MUNICIPAL CODE BY ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 132
“REGULATION OF SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY”; PROVIDING
DEFINITIONS; CREATING “CHILD SAFETY ZONES”;
PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENCES AND
CERTAIN ACTIVITIES BY SEX OFFENDERS IN CHILD SAFETY
ZONES; PROVIDING AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES; ESTABLISHING
OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO MENTAL STATE AND NON-
ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY
CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Harker Heights, Texas (“City of Harker Heights”) is a home rule city; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Harker Heights has determined and declares that sex offenders are a threat to public health, safety, welfare and morals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines that a policy establishing child safety zones to be applied regarding the residence of registered sex offenders and prohibiting registered sex offenders participating in Halloween will provide better protection for children within the City of Harker Heights; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Harker Heights, state law and all other applicable laws and ordinances, have given required notices and have held required public hearings regarding the amendment to the Municipal Code set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to provide for the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Harker Heights by and through the exercise of its police powers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. All of the above premises are found to be true and correct legislative findings of the City of Harker Heights and are hereby approved and incorporated into the body of this Ordinance as if copied in its entirety.