

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-63**  
**INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 636.15 OF  
THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY  
TITLED TELECOMMUNICATION HARASSMENT  
BY INCLUDING THE RESTRICTIONS AND THE  
PROHIBITIONS IMPOSED BY FEDERAL AND  
STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LYNDHURST, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 636.15 of the Codified Ordinances titled TELECOMMUNICATION HARASSMENT is hereby amended to read as follows: (new material appears like THIS: deleted material appears like ~~this~~):

**636.15 TELECOMMUNICATION HARASSMENT.**

(a) No person shall knowingly make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or knowingly permit telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, to another, if the caller does any of the following:

(1) Makes the telecommunication with purpose to harass, intimidate, or abuse, any person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, whether or not actual communication takes place between the caller and a recipient;

(2) Describes, suggests, requests, or proposes that the caller, the recipient of the telecommunication, or any other person engage in sexual activity, and the recipient or another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made has requested, in a previous telecommunication or in the immediate telecommunication, that the caller not make a telecommunication to the recipient or to the premises to which the telecommunication is made;

(3) During the telecommunication, violates Ohio R.C. 2903.21;

(4) Knowingly states to the recipient of the telecommunication that the caller intends to cause damage to or destroy public or private property, and the recipient, any member of the recipient's family, or any other person who resides at the premises to which the telecommunication is made owns, leases, resides, or works in, will at the time of the destruction or damaging be near or in, has the responsibility of protecting, or insures the property that will be destroyed or damaged;

(5) Knowingly makes the telecommunication to the recipient of the telecommunication, to another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, or to those premises, and the recipient or another person at those premises previously has told the caller not to make a telecommunication to those premises or to any person at those premises.

(6) Knowingly makes any comment, request, suggestion, or proposal to the recipient of the telecommunication that is threatening, intimidating, menacing, coercive, or obscene with the intent to abuse, threaten or harass the recipient;

(7) Without a lawful business purpose, knowingly interrupts the telecommunication service of any person;

(8) Without a lawful business purpose, knowingly transmits to any person, regardless of whether the telecommunication is heard in its entirety, any file, document or other communication that prevents that person from using the person's telephone service or electronic communication device;

(9) Knowingly makes any false statement concerning the death, injury, illness, disfigurement, reputation, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct of the recipient of the telecommunication or family or household member of the recipient with purpose to abuse, threaten, intimidate, or harass the recipient;

(10) Knowingly incites another person through a telecommunication or other means to harass or participate in the harassment of a person;

(11) Knowingly alarms the recipient by making a telecommunication without a lawful purpose at an hour or hours known to be inconvenient to the recipient and in an offensive or repetitive manner;

(12) MAKES THE TELECOMMUNICATION IN VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY;

(13) MAKES THE TELECOMMUNICATION IN VIOLATION OF THE OHIO TELEPHONE SOLICITATIONS ACT, SECTION 4719.01 OF THE OHIO REVISED

CODE;

(14) MAKES THE TELECOMMUNICATION IN VIOLATION OF THE OHIO TELEMARKETING FRAUD ACT, SECTION 109.87 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE;

(15) MAKES THE TELECOMMUNICATION IN VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING RULES:

A. CALLING TIMES ARE RESTRICTED TO 8 A.M. – 9 P.M.

B. TELEMARKETERS MUST PROMPTLY IDENTIFY WHO THEY ARE CALLING FOR AND IF THE CALL IS A SALES CALL OR CHARITABLE SOLICITATION.

C. TELEMARKETERS MUST DISCLOSE ALL MATERIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOODS OR SERVICES THEY ARE OFFERING, AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFERED TRANSACTION, AND ARE PROHIBITED FROM MISREPRESENTING ANY TERMS OF THE OFFERED TRANSACTION.

D. TELEMARKETERS MUST TRANSMIT CALLER ID INFORMATION, AND ARE PROHIBITED FROM BLOCKING CALLER ID INFORMATION TO THE RECIPIENT.

(b) (1) No person shall make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or permit a telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, with purpose to abuse, threaten, or harass another person.

(2) No person shall knowingly post a text or audio statement or an image on an internet web site or web page for the purpose of abusing, threatening, or harassing another person.

(c) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of telecommunication harassment.

(2) A violation of subsections (a)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), ~~or~~ (11), (12), (13), (14) OR (15) or (b) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense. Each subsequent offense is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(3) Whoever violates subsection (a)(4) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense. For each subsequent offense or if a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof results in economic harm of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(d) No cause of action may be asserted in any court of this State against any provider of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, or against any officer, employee, or agent of a telecommunication service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises out of the provider's, officer's, employee's, or agent's provision of information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order that is issued in relation to the investigation or prosecution of an alleged violation of this section. A provider of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, or an officer, employee, or agent of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, of information service, is immune from any civil or criminal liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises out of the provider's, officer's, employee's, or agent's provision of information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order that is issued in relation to the investigation or prosecution of an alleged violation of this section.

(e) (1) This section does not apply to a person solely because the person provided access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person's control, including having provided capabilities that are incidental to providing access or connection to or from the electronic method of remotely transferring the information, and that do not include the creation of the content of the material that is the subject of the access or connection. In addition, any person providing access or connection to or from an electric method of remotely transferring information not under that person's control shall not be liable for any action voluntarily taken in good faith to block the receipt or transmission through its service of any information that the person believes is, or will be sent, in violation of this section.

(2) Subsection (e)(1) of this section does not create an affirmative duty for any person providing access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person's control to block the receipt or transmission through its service of any information that it believes is, or will be sent, in violation of this section except as otherwise provided by law.

(3) Subsection (e)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who conspires with a person actively involved in the creation or knowing distribution of material in violation of this section or who knowingly advertises the availability of material of that nature.

(4) A provider or user of an interactive computer service, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, shall neither be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, nor held civilly or criminally liable for the creation or development of information provided by another information content provider, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect a person from liability to the extent that the person developed or created any content in violation of this section.

(f) Subsections (a)(5) to (11) and (b)(2) of this section do not apply to a person who, while employed or contracted by a newspaper, magazine, press association, news agency, news wire service, cable channel or cable operator, or radio or television station, is gathering, processing, transmitting, compiling, editing or disseminating information for the general public, within the scope of the person's employment in that capacity or the person's contractual authority in that capacity.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Economic harm" means all direct, incidental, and consequential pecuniary harm suffered by a victim as a result of criminal conduct. "Economic harm" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- A. All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a result of the criminal conduct;
- B. The cost of all wages, salaries or other compensation paid to employees for time those employees are prevented from working as a result of the criminal conduct;
- C. The overhead costs incurred for the time that a business is shut down as a result of the criminal conduct;
- D. The loss of value to tangible or intangible property that was damaged as a result of the criminal conduct.

(2) "Caller" means the person described in subsection (a) hereof who makes or causes to be made a telecommunication or who permits a telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under that person's control.

(3) "Telecommunication" and "telecommunications device" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.

(4) "Sexual activity" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2907.01.

(5) "Family or household member" means any of the following:

A. Any of the following who is residing or has resided with the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed:

- 1. A spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the recipient;
- 2. A parent, a foster parent, or a child of the recipient, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the recipient;
- 3.. A parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the recipient, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the recipient.

B. The natural parent of any child of whom the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent.

(6) "Person living as a spouse" means a person who is living or has lived with the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the recipient, or who otherwise has cohabited with the recipient within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question.

(7) "Cable operator" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1332.21.

(h) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from making a telecommunication call to a debtor that is in compliance with the "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act", 91 Stat. 874 (1977), 15 U.S.C. 1692, as amended, or the "Telephone Consumer Protection Act", 105 Stat. 2395 (1991), 47 U.S.C. 227, as amended. (ORC 2917.21)

**SECTION 2.** Any and all provisions of Section 636.15 of the Codified Ordinances of the City inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, and all other provisions of Section 636.15 of the Codified Ordinances shall remain in full force and effect

**SECTION 3.** This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Lyndhurst for the reason that it is necessary to institute the aforesaid amendments to the Codified Ordinances immediately and without delay to protect the health, welfare and safety of the residents of the City. Therefore this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the affirmative vote of not less than five members elected to Council, and signature by the Mayor, or otherwise at the earliest time allowed by law.

PASSED: October 7, 2019

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**MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**VICE MAYOR**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk of Council**

I, the undersigned Clerk of Council of the City of Lyndhurst, hereby certify that there is no newspaper published or having an office of publication in said City, and that I published the foregoing Ordinance by advertising the same by title on one day in each of two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in said City on October 17, 2019 and October 24, 2019.

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**Clerk of Council**

First Reading: September 3, 2019

Second Reading: September 16, 2019

Third Reading: October 7, 2019