

**ORDINANCE 12-114**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE 24**

**PROVIDING FOR A CURFEW APPLYING TO ALL JUVENILES AGE SEVENTEEN AND UNDER, FIXING THE TIME THEY SHALL LEAVE PUBLIC PLACES AND FIXING THE PENALTY THEREOF.**

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen etc; that it shall be viewed unlawful for any juvenile age seventeen and under to be present at a public place between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. A public place is defined as any place to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access, and includes but is not limited to streets, highways, sidewalks, corners, avenues, alleys, parks, playgrounds, public buildings, vacant lots or other public places.

Section 2. Be it further ordained by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen etc. that any member of the Chatham Police Department or the Jackson Parish Sheriff's Office shall have the authority to enforce this ordinance. Upon reasonable belief, based upon the juvenile's statements and the surrounding circumstances, to believe a curfew violation has occurred, the officer may:

1. Counsel and release the juvenile;
2. Escort the juvenile to his home;
3. Release the juvenile to the care of a responsible adult.
4. Issue a misdemeanor summons to his custodian.

Section 3. Be it further ordained by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen etc. that the following are defenses to violations under this division. This division does not apply to juveniles who are:

1. Accompanied by the juvenile's custodian.
2. On a reasonable errand;
3. Engaged in an employment activity in accordance with the state's labor law, going to or returning home from such an employment activity without any detour or stop;
4. Involved in an emergency;
5. Attending an official school, religious or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the Town of Chatham or a parish, a civic organization, or other similar entity that takes responsibility for the juvenile, or going to or returning home from such an activity without any detour or stop;
6. Exercising First Amendment right protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly; where the circumstances legitimately mandate that these rights must be exercised during the curfew hours.

Be it further ordained etc; that this ordinance shall take effect thirty days from and after the passage thereof.

YEAS: 5      NAYS: 0      ABSTAIN: 0      ABSENT: 0

The foregoing amended ordinance was thereupon declared duly adopted by the presiding officer and signed by him on the 12th day of December 2006 and ordered published.

No. 373858 Filed for Record Conv.  
Book No. 394 Page 762  
At December 15 20 06  
At 1:06 O'Clock P M.  
I hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now on file in my office, together with all of the endorsements thereon.  
Witness my official signature and seal of office on this the 15 day of December A.D., 20 06.  
Dy Hanst  
Clerk of Court, Jackson Parish, Louisiana

[Signature]  
Mayor  
[Signature]  
Clerk