

1 BY AUTHORITY

2 ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
3 SERIES OF 2023  
4 AMENDED 1-08-24

COUNCIL BILL NO.23-1960  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:  
Safety, Housing, Education & Homelessness

6 A BILL

7 **For an ordinance amending Chapters 24, 38, and 49 of the Revised Municipal**  
8 **Code concerning the removal of shelter when the outside temperature is**  
9 **predicted to be thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit or lower.**  
10

11 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

12 **Section 1.** That chapter 24, article II shall be amended by adding the language underlined, to  
13 read as follows:

14 **Sec. 24-16. - General powers and duties.**

15 (a) The manager of public health and environment, as provided under the Charter, shall  
16 exercise a general supervision over the public health and environment of the city, and shall have full  
17 power:

18 (1) To take all measures necessary to promote the health and cleanliness of the city and its  
19 inhabitants and visitors;

20 (2) To abate all nuisances related to public health and environment of every description on  
21 public and private property;

22 (3) To prevent the introduction or spreading within the city of malignant, contagious and  
23 infectious diseases, and to remove, detail, isolate or quarantine any person attacked by or having any  
24 such disease, or who has been exposed thereto;

25 (4) To adopt in reference to any such person, any rules, regulations, restrictions or  
26 measures that may by the manager be deemed advisable;

27 (5) To procure suitable shelter in cases of public health and environment emergencies and  
28 to establish rules and regulations for the government of the same; and

29 (6) To prevent, by such rules or regulations as the manager may deem expedient and adopt,  
30 the introduction or the spreading of contagious or infectious diseases within the city and its environs.

31 (7) It shall be unlawful for any person to violate a rule or regulation adopted by the manager  
32 pursuant to this section.

33 (b) The manager may not order the removal of any shelter, as defined in section 38-  
34 86.2(e)(1), if forty-eight (48) hours prior to the order of removal the external ambient temperature is

1 predicted by the National Weather Service to be thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit or lower during the  
2 period when the removal will occur or within two (2) hours after anticipated completion of the removal.

3 (1) It shall be an exception to this subsection (b) if the manager certifies in the order of  
4 removal, by reasons of facts stated in writing, that removal of a shelter is necessary to mitigate a  
5 condition that would cause greater imminent peril to the health or safety of any person than the threat  
6 to health posed by exposure to existing weather conditions.

7 (2) Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prohibit an agency or department from offering  
8 medical or human services assistance, including but not limited to, mental health treatment, drug or  
9 alcohol rehabilitation, homeless services assistance, or temporary or permanent housing solutions  
10 regardless of the external ambient temperature.

11 **Section 2.** That chapter 38, article III, division 1 shall be amended by deleting the language  
12 stricken, and adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

13 **Sec. 38-86.2. - Unauthorized camping on public or private property prohibited.**

14 (c) No law enforcement officer shall issue a citation, make an arrest, or otherwise enforce  
15 this section against any person unless:

16 (1) The external ambient temperature is predicted by the National Weather Service to be  
17 thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit or higher during the period of citation, arrest, or other enforcement;  
18 or

19 (2) The manager of the Department of Public Health and Environment has certified, by  
20 reasons of facts stated in writing, that enforcement is or was necessary to mitigate a condition that  
21 would cause greater imminent peril to the health or safety of any person than the threat to health  
22 posed by exposure to existing weather conditions; and

23 ~~(4)~~(3) The officer orally requests or orders the person to refrain from the alleged violation of  
24 this section and, if the person fails to comply after receiving the oral request or order, the officer  
25 tenders a written request or order to the person warning that if the person fails to comply the person  
26 may be cited or arrested for a violation of this section; and

27 ~~(2)~~(4) The officer attempts to ascertain whether the person is in need of medical or human  
28 services assistance, including, but not limited, to mental health treatment, drug or alcohol  
29 rehabilitation, or homeless services assistance. If the officer determines that the person may be in  
30 need of medical or human services assistance, the officer shall make reasonable efforts to contact  
31 and obtain the assistance of a designated human service outreach worker, who in turn shall assess  
32 the needs of the person and, if warranted, direct the person to an appropriate provider of medical or  
33 human services assistance in lieu of the person being cited or arrested for a violation of this section. If  
34 the officer is unable to obtain the assistance of a human services outreach worker, if the human

1 services outreach worker determines that the person is not in need of medical or human services  
2 assistance, or if the person refuses to cooperate with the direction of the human services outreach  
3 worker, the officer may proceed to cite or arrest the person for a violation of this section so long as the  
4 warnings required by paragraph (43) of this subsection have been previously given.

5 (d) Nothing in subsection (c) above shall be construed to prohibit an agency or department  
6 from offering medical or human services assistance, including but not limited to, mental health  
7 treatment, drug or alcohol rehabilitation, homeless services assistance, or temporary or permanent  
8 housing solutions regardless of the external ambient temperature.

9 (de) For purposes of this section:

10 **Section 3.** That chapter 49, article IX, shall be amended by adding the language underlined, to  
11 read as follows:

12 **Sec. 49-246. - Order of removal.**

13 (a) The manager of transportation and infrastructure or the manager's designee (hereinafter  
14 in this article, "manager") is authorized to remove or to order the removal of any article, vehicle or  
15 thing whatsoever encumbering any street, alley, sidewalk, parkway or other public way or place (any  
16 such thing hereinafter in this article to be called an "encumbrance"). The manager may prescribe  
17 appropriate methods, specifications, placement and materials for encumbrances in the public right-of-  
18 way.

19 (b) The manager may not order the removal of any shelter, as defined in section 38-  
20 86.2(e)(1), if forty-eight (48) hours prior to the order of removal the external ambient temperature is  
21 predicted by the National Weather Service to be thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit or lower during the  
22 period when the removal will occur or within two (2) hours after anticipated completion of the removal.

23 (1) It shall be an exception to this subsection (b) if the manager of the Department of Public  
24 Health and Environment has certified, by reasons of facts stated in writing, that removal of a shelter is  
25 or was necessary to mitigate a condition that would cause greater imminent peril to the health or  
26 safety of any person than the threat to health posed by exposure to existing weather conditions.

27 (2) Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prohibit an agency or department from offering  
28 medical or human services assistance, including but not limited to, mental health treatment, drug or  
29 alcohol rehabilitation, homeless services assistance, or temporary or permanent housing solutions  
30 regardless of the external ambient temperature.

31 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: December 20, 2023

32 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: December 26, 2023 by Consent

33 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_

34 \_\_\_\_\_ - PRESIDENT

1 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

2 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
3 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
4 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
5

6 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_

7 PREPARED BY: Anshul Bagga, Assistant City Attorney; DATE: March 7, 2023

8 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the  
9 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed  
10 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §  
11 3.2.6 of the Charter.

12  
13 Kerry Tipper, Denver City Attorney

14

15 BY: \_\_\_\_\_, Assistant City Attorney DATE: \_\_\_\_\_