

Bill NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 123.456 OF THE CAMELOT, MISSOURI, CITY CODE.**

**WHEREAS**, every human society has developed funereal traditions intended to accommodate grief and give comfort; and as these cultural traditions evolve through the course of history they tend to increase in sensitivity as cultures mature and become more civil and compassionate; and

**WHEREAS**, every one of these cultural traditions shares at least two common features: respect for the deceased, and care for those who survive - emotions so universal and reflexive as to seem to be innately human; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also true that society must at times suffer those who seek self-aggrandizement by flaunting convention and shocking the sensibilities of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly enacted Section 578.501, RSMO, and the City of Camelot enacted parallel legislation as Section 123.456 of the City Code, legislation which springs from the most noble and compassionate part of the human spirit and seeks to respect the privacy of mourners and protect against disruptions to the public peace; and

**WHEREAS**, certain individuals or organizations, for reasons of their own, chose to challenge the constitutionality of the state law cited above and have succeeded in obtaining a preliminary injunction against its enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, these complainants have now threatened to sue the City of Camelot with respect to its similar ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Aldermen does not wish to afford these publicity-seekers a platform to further their self-promotion, nor run the risk of funding their activities should they be awarded judgment against the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the public policy of the United States and the generous protections of our Constitution highly value freedom of speech, even that speech which is almost universally reviled, is founded in bitterness, hate or a shocking disregard for the privacy and compassion to which mourners are humanely entitled, or other selfish and provocative forms of expression which sorely test the bounds of the privilege and protection we afford; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Aldermen also has great confidence in the good sense and tolerance of Camelot's residents, and their capacity to ignore provocateurs and deny them the notoriety they so desperately seek;

**Commented [K01]:** Sometimes prefatory clauses can be used to give legislators support for making hard choices and/or providing political and public relations "cover" for the actions they have to take. This is an extreme example of such an approach.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CAMELOT, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section One.**

Section 123.456 of Article V of Chapter 123 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Camelot, Missouri, is hereby repealed and held for naught.

**Section Two.**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

**PASSED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN FOR THE CITY OF CAMELOT, MISSOURI, THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur D. Lancelot, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

