

Ordinance No. 1380-2025

By Council Member Griffin and Polensek

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

To amend Section 621.07 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as enacted by Ordinance No. 54-74, passed March 25, 1974, relating to menacing of a healthcare worker.

WHEREAS, workplace violence is a serious concern for workers in healthcare settings; according to 2018 data from the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare workers are five times more likely than any other occupation to experience violence; and

WHEREAS, healthcare workers make up 10% of the workforce, but experience 48% of nonfatal injuries resulting from workplace violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, there has been a 7 % rise in reported harassment from healthcare workers between 2018 and 2022 (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the American Hospital Association estimated the annual cost of violence to hospital workers in 2023 to be \$18.27 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly enacted House Bill Number 452, effective April 9, 2025, to require each hospital system to establish a workplace violence prevention security plan, reporting systems, and training for security personnel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Akron passed Ordinance No. 307-2025 on September 15, 2025, that increases the penalty for menacing a healthcare worker to a first-degree misdemeanor; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That Section 621.07 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as enacted by Ordinance No. 54-74, passed March 25, 1974, is amended to read as follows:

Section 621.07 **Menacing**

(a) As used in this section:

“Healthcare worker” means one who delivers care and/or services to the sick and ailing either directly as health care professionals such as doctors or nurses, or indirectly as aides, helpers, laboratory technicians, or medical waste handlers.

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(b) No person shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property of such other person or member of his or her immediate family.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of menacing, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(d) If the victim of the offense is a healthcare worker whom the offender knows or has reason to know is a healthcare worker, and the offense occurred during the healthcare worker's performance or attempted performance of official responsibilities or duties, menacing is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(e) Any person convicted of an offense covered by division (d) of this section shall receive a mandatory jail sentence of at least three days, which shall not be suspended and during which mandatory minimum jail term the defendant shall not be eligible for any form of early release, house arrest, or work release.

(1) The mandatory minimum shall be served consecutively for each eligible offense.

(2) The mandatory minimum may be reduced for time served in jail prior to sentencing. A day of time served credit may not be used to reduce multiple mandatory minimum sentences.

(3) The court may impose additional penalties as permitted by Section 601.99.

Section 2. That existing Section 621.07 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as enacted by Ordinance No. 54-74, passed March 25, 1974, is repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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10-27-25

Council Members Griffin

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READ FIRST TIME OCTOBER 27, 2025

REPORTS
and referred to Directors of Public Safety, Public Health, Finance, Law; Committees on Safety, Health, Human Services and the Arts, Finance, Diversity Equity, and Inclusion

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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REPORT after second Reading

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
SAFETY

FILED WITH COMMITTEE

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FILED WITH COMMITTEE

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
**FINANCE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY
and INCLUSION**

FILED WITH COMMITTEE
