

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS REVISED 1988; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANDATORY USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS AT CONVENIENCE STORES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County is tasked with protecting the health, welfare, and safety of its residents and visitors by ensuring the continued availability of crime free and safe convenience stores within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County declares and finds that a significant number of violent crimes occur at convenience stores;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that Chapter 15 of the Code of DeKalb County, as Revised 1988, is hereby amended to add a new Article XV to chapter 15 as follows:

ARTICLE XV  
CONVENIENCE STORES

**PART I. ENACTMENT**

*By amending Chapter 15 of the Code of DeKalb County, as Revised 1988, to add a new article with reserved sections and a new section 15-573 as follows:*

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**Secs. 15-563 -15-572. Reserved.**

**Sec. 15-573. Video Surveillance Systems.**

(a) *Definition of Terms.*

**Chief** means the chief of the DeKalb County Police Department or their designee, or such other director as authorized by the chief executive officer or the executive assistant.

**Convenience store** means a retail establishment primarily engaged in the retail sale of convenience goods, including but not limited to basic food, tobacco, gasoline, and/or pharmaceutical items that do not have to be prescribed by a healthcare professional primarily for off-premises consumption and typically having extended hours of operation in a small building of less than 10,000 square feet. This definition includes small retail stores located on the same parcel as, or operated in conjunction with, an automobile service or gas station.

**County employee** means any county employee or agent authorized by the chief executive officer, the executive assistant, the Director, and/or the Chief to act, perform inspections, issue citations for violations of this Code, including but not limited to code compliance officers, inspectors, and police officers.

**Director** shall mean the Director of the Department of Planning and Sustainability, or their designee or such other director as authorized by the chief executive officer or the executive assistant.

**High Risk Business** means a retail establishment that is not a convenience store and has been designated as a High Risk Business by the Chief as a result of having more than three (3) calls for police service within thirty (30) consecutive days or is a retail establishment where a serious crime such as murder, felony murder, aggravated assault, kidnapping, armed robbery, rape, child molestation, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or any felony possession or possession with intent to distribute controlled substances in violation of Georgia or federal law has occurred.

**Video Surveillance System (VSS)** for the purpose of this ordinance shall mean a continuous digital surveillance system including cameras, cabling, monitors, and digital video recorders (DVR). This also includes Wi-Fi network cameras, provided that all footage can be saved and made available to the DeKalb County Police Department or any other law enforcement agency for review.

(b) **Video Surveillance Requirements.** All convenience stores and high risk businesses must:

- (1) Maintain a VSS in proper working order at all times, including outside of business hours;
- (2) Keep a VSS in continuous operation twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week;
- (3) Meet the minimum standards for placement of video cameras;
- (4) Meet the minimum technological standards established in this section;
- (5) Request an inspection of new construction plans or a one-time initial inspection of their VSS by the Director for the approval of the placement of all VSS;
- (6) After the initial inspection, the applicant must submit an affidavit with each application for a renewal of their business license that the VSS is operational and in full compliance; and
- (7) Place their approved notice and notice of presence of VSS at the register that informs the public that the premises are monitored by VSS.

(b) *Minimum Standards.* All VSS must comply with the following minimum standards of placement of video cameras:

- (1) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to each register and/or check-out stand;
- (2) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to each entrance/exit to each structure located on the convenience store's property;
- (3) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to each pump located on the property where the convenience store operates;
- (4) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to each loading dock located on the property where the convenience store operates;
- (5) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to the parking lots and/or areas designated for customer and/or employee parking located on the property where the convenience store operates;
- (6) All VSS are required to have no less than one (1) camera dedicated to each of the entrances and exits to the parking lots for customer and/or employee parking; and,
- (7) All VSS cameras must remain unobstructed by any display, sign, or other item.
- (8) Approval Notice and Notice of Presence of VSS:
  - (A) The approval notice and a notice to the public that a VSS is operational, and recording must be prominently displayed at the register and/or counter;
  - (B) In the event there is a convenience store that does not have a commercial space for customers to enter (e.g., if the station only has a payment booth for its employees where members of the public may not enter), then a copy of the aforementioned approval notice shall be placed in plain view at each pump at the services stations and at each register and/or check-out stand.
  - (C) Existing VSS at convenience stores as of the effective date of this ordinance will be evaluated to ensure full compliance with this section by the applicable effective dates of this ordinance.

(c) *Minimal technological standards.*

- (1) All VSS cameras must be high resolution color cameras capable of providing:
  - (A) instant screen captures upon request;

(B) a digital image that clearly depicts the facial features of a person filmed; and,

(C) capable of the producing images with InfraRed (IR)/night vision camera features, as necessary during low light to satisfy the foregoing subsections.

(2) All VSS cameras must have at least the following standards:

(A) Minimal Resolution: 4MP (1440p);

(B) Image Size: 2560 x 1440;

(C) Pixels per image: 5,017,600;

(D) Aspect ratio: 16:9;

(E) A minimum of 24 Frames Per Second (24 FPS);

(F) Convert video files to mp4 standard software files and convert picture files to JPG, JPEG, or TIF standard software files; and,

(G) The aforementioned technological standards are subject to change pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(3) All VSS cameras must have a capability to record an area that extends no less than seventy-five (75') feet;

(4) All VSS cameras must be operated in a fixed position and not in a panning motion;

(5) All VSS cameras must display the correct date and time of each recording;

(6) All VSS must use a digital video recording device to record images from each surveillance camera in the convenience store. Each recording device must be kept in a secured location that is remote from the surveillance cameras.

(7) The convenience store shall retain the continuous digital images recorded by this system for no less than thirty (30) days.

(8) A digital video recording must be made available to the Chief or any other peace officer for viewing as soon as possible but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after being requested.

(d) *Inspections.* The VSS shall be subject to regular inspection by the Director, who is authorized to inspect any such system, at reasonable times to determine whether it conforms to the requirement of this section. If the VSS does not conform, the convenience store in

question shall take immediate steps to bring the system back into compliance within sixty (60) days of being notified of the VSS’s non-compliance.

(e) *VSS Standards.* The DeKalb County Police Department will develop, maintain, and publish on the County website dated, written VSS Standards that provide the minimum standards for VSS equipment, installation, and maintenance. Any new standards or changes to existing standards will become effective on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

(f) *Effective Date.* All convenience stores that have VSS installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall ensure said systems are in full compliance with this section and article and obtain an assessment approval from a county employee by \_\_\_\_\_, the date upon which all convenience stores must be compliant with the provisions of this ordinance.

(g) *Enforcement, Violations, and Penalties.* The provisions of this ordinance may be enforced by any county employee. Any person who does anything prohibited or fails to do anything required by this ordinance, upon citation by a county employee and conviction of the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction, which includes the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County shall be subject to fine and/or imprisonment in accordance with section 1-10 of this Code.

**PART II. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall become effective 120 days after the date of adoption by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the Chief Executive Officer. In the first effective year, convenience stores must comply with all provisions of this ordinance by \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**PART III. SEVERABILITY**

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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**ROBERT PATRICK**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

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**BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOSEPH "JACK" LIMPKIN**  
Director of Public Safety  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:**

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**MIRTHA RAMOS**  
Police Chief  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE**

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**ANDREW BAKER**  
Director of Planning and Sustainability  
DeKalb County, Georgia