

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON CODE TO REVISE
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POLICE CHIEF

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Ordinance No. 1657, adopted in 1991, the police chief is required to reside within the city within six months of assuming the office of police chief; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Washington finds that with updated communication technology, increased police personnel, and modernized department practices since 1991, it is unnecessary for the police chief to reside within the city to quickly respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that residency within the city fosters community involvement and commitment, both of which are required and desirable attributes of a police chief; however, such commitment can alternatively be demonstrated by a long history of city employment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Washington now wishes to amend the City Code to revise the residency requirements of the police chief as set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS HOME RULE POWERS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated as findings of fact as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Chapter 32, Section 22 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions are indicated by **bold underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Sec. 32-22. - Chief of police; director of public safety.

- (f) *Residence.* The police chief shall reside within the city within six months of assuming the office of police chief; **provided however, that a police chief who has been a city employee for at least fifteen (15) years may reside within twenty-five (25) miles of the corporate limits of the city.**

Section 3. Chapter 32, Section 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions are indicated by **bold underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Sec. 32-27. - Residency.

Except for the police chief (**residency of whom shall be governed by section 32-22(f)**), city police officers may reside outside the corporate limits of the city both at the time of appointment and while serving as such police officer.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby ordered to be published in pamphlet form by the City Clerk and said Clerk is ordered to keep at least three (3) copies hereof available for public inspection in the future and in accordance with the Illinois Municipal Code.

Section 5. This Ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances on the subject and shall be construed therewith except as to that part in direct conflict with any other ordinance, and in the event of such conflict, the provisions hereof shall govern.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in the manner provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN REGULAR AND PUBLIC SESSION this ____ day of _____, 2025.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk