

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE, LOUISIANA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-006**

By Council Member Murrell:

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DONATION ACTIVITIES; PROHIBITING UNAUTHORIZED DONATION DROP-OFFS; ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DONATION CENTERS; DECLARING CERTAIN CONDITIONS A PUBLIC NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, LIABILITY, AND PENALTIES; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

**WHEREAS**, unauthorized donation drop-offs on private property and outside approved hours contribute to illegal dumping, blight, and hazards to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, both donation centers and members of the public share responsibility for lawful donation practices; and

**WHEREAS**, clear operational limits and enforcement mechanisms are necessary to protect private property rights, neighborhood quality, and the general welfare of the citizens of the City of St. George;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of St. George, Louisiana, that:

**SECTION 1 — TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the:

**“St. George Donation Regulation and Responsibility Ordinance.”**

**SECTION 2 — DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned below:

**Donation Center** — Any person, business, nonprofit organization, or entity that solicits, accepts, collects, stores, or distributes donated goods within the City.

**Donated Goods** — Personal property intended for charitable or resale donation, including but not limited to clothing, furniture, appliances, or household items.

**Business Hours** — The hours during which a donation center is lawfully open to the public for donation acceptance, as posted on-site and registered with the City.

**Unauthorized Drop-Off** — Placement or abandonment of donated goods:

- a. On private property without express consent of the owner or lawful occupant; or
- b. At or near a donation center outside posted business hours.

**Private Property** — Real property not owned or controlled by a governmental entity.

**Responsible Donation Center** — The donation center reasonably identifiable as the intended recipient of donated goods through signage, containers, receipts, branding, or solicitation materials.

### **SECTION 3 — LIMITATIONS ON DONATION CENTER OPERATIONS**

#### **A. Hours of Collection**

No donation center shall solicit, accept, collect, or permit donations outside approved business hours.

#### **B. Prohibition of Unattended Collection Devices**

Unattended donation bins, trailers, receptacles, or similar collection devices are prohibited on public or private property within the City.

#### **C. Posting Requirements**

Donation centers shall conspicuously display business hours and a notice stating that after-hours donations are prohibited and subject to penalties.

### **SECTION 4 — DONATION CENTER LIABILITY**

#### **A. Strict Liability**

A Responsible Donation Center shall be strictly liable for unauthorized drop-offs associated with that center.

#### **B. Rebuttable Presumption**

Identifying materials create a rebuttable presumption of responsibility.

#### **C. Third-Party Actions**

Donor misconduct does not relieve a donation center of liability.

### **SECTION 5 — DUTIES OF DONATION CENTERS**

Donation centers shall:

1. Implement reasonable measures to discourage improper donations; and
2. Remove unauthorized donations within eight (8) hours of notice, or sooner when public safety requires.

## **SECTION 6 — PROHIBITED PUBLIC CONDUCT**

### **A. Unlawful Acts**

No person shall:

1. Place donated goods on private property without consent; or
2. Deposit goods outside posted donation center hours.

### **B. Penalties**

Violators are subject to:

- Civil fines of \$100–\$500 per violation;
- Community cleanup requirements when authorized;
- Restitution for abatement costs.

### **C. Evidence**

Photographs, video, witness statements, or identifying materials may establish violations.

## **SECTION 7 — ENFORCEMENT AGAINST DONATION CENTERS**

Donation centers violating this Ordinance are subject to:

- Civil fines of \$100–\$500 per occurrence;
- Cost recovery for cleanup or disposal;
- Permit or license suspension after notice and hearing.

Each day constitutes a separate offense.

## **SECTION 8 — PUBLIC NUISANCE**

Unauthorized donation drop-offs are declared a public nuisance subject to City abatement and cost recovery.

## **SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

## **SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was:

For: Cook, Dellucci, Edmonds, Himmel, Monachello, Murrell, Talbot

Against:

Absent / Abstaining / Recused:

Introduced on February 24, 2026 and adopted on March 10, 2026.

  
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Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Delivered to Mayor on March 11, 2026.

  
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Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Approved:

  
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Dustin Yates, Mayor

Received from Mayor on 11 March, 2026

Ordinance published in The Advocate on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026