

From: [County Ordinances](#)
To: [Ordinances](#); [County Ordinances](#)
Cc: [Patricia Tapia](#); [Paige Jefferys](#); [Heidi Kurppe](#)
Subject: RE: Hernando County Ordinance No. 2025-03 - Adopted on March 25, 2025
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 10:28:40 AM
Attachments: [Hernando20250327_Ordinance2025_03_Ack.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Attached is the acknowledgement letter for Hernando County Ordinance 2025-03.

Thank you,

David Parrish

Government Operations Consultant II
Office of the General Counsel
Department of State
Room 701 – The Capital – Tallahassee, FL
P: (850) 245-6270

From: Ordinances <ord@hernandoclerk.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 10:09 AM
To: County Ordinances <CountyOrdinances@dos.fl.gov>
Cc: Patricia Tapia <ptapia@hernandoclerk.org>; Paige Jefferys <pjefferys@hernandoclerk.org>; Heidi Kurppe <hkurppe@hernandoclerk.org>
Subject: Hernando County Ordinance No. 2025-03 - Adopted on March 25, 2025

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Sender Full Name:	Patricia Tapia
Sender Phone number:	352-754-4970
County Name:	Hernando
Ordinance Number:	2025-03

Thank You,

Patricia Tapia
Administrative Services | Administrative Services Clerk I
Office of Doug Chorvat Jr., Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller
Phone: 352-754-4201 | Email: ptapia@hernandoclerk.org
20 N Main Street, Brooksville, FL 34601



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

March 27, 2025

Doug Chorvat, Jr.
County Clerk
Hernando County
20 North Main Street, Rm. 362
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Dear Doug Chorvat Jr.,

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Hernando County Ordinance No. 2025-03, which was filed in this office on March 27, 2025.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Leijon
Administrative Code and Register Director

AL/dp

ORDINANCE NO.: 2025-03

1
2 AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVERY OF
3 UNSOLICITED NEWSPAPERS OR CIRCULARS ON PRIVATE PREMISES;
4 PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE
5 CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; AND
6 PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7 WHEREAS, the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (the “County
8 Commission”) recognizes that an individual's First Amendment right of free speech includes the
9 right, under certain conditions, to distribute unsolicited newspapers, handbills, advertisements, or
10 other paper materials; and,

11 WHEREAS, the County Commission finds that the indiscriminate throwing of unsolicited
12 newspapers, handbills, advertisements, or other paper materials on lawns, driveways, rights of way,
13 or porches, when such materials can be blown around, can cause unsightly littering, visual blight and
14 eyesores, the clogging of storm drains, and damage to waterways, and can cause the general decrease
15 in the aesthetic quality of neighborhoods with associated lowering of property values and lowering
16 of property tax receipts; and;

17 WHEREAS, the County Commission has a substantial public interest in maintaining the
18 aesthetic qualities of Hernando County’s neighborhoods, the maintenance of cleanliness and beauty
19 of its homes and streets, and in preventing littering; and,

1 WHEREAS, the County Commission's intent in enacting this ordinance is to impose
2 narrowly tailored restrictions that will serve substantial public interests, and to only put reasonable
3 time, place and manner restrictions on the exercise of free speech as reflected in the distribution of
4 unsolicited newspapers, handbills, advertisements, or other paper materials; and,

5 WHEREAS, the collection of numerous unsolicited newspapers, handbills, advertisements,
6 or other paper materials at unoccupied houses is unsightly and also contributes to the potential for
7 crime since they draw attention to the unoccupied status of such houses; and,

8 WHEREAS, it is reasonable to believe that when newspapers, handbills, advertisements or
9 other paper materials are specifically desired and solicited by homeowners, such homeowners will
10 both collect these materials before they become litter or eyesores, and assume the responsibility, as
11 they do with other home doorstep deliveries, to suspend delivery or to arrange for these materials to
12 be picked up in their absence, thus making the regulation of specifically solicited materials
13 unnecessary to accomplish the goals of this ordinance; and,

14 WHEREAS, the County Commission finds enacting an ordinance to address and prevent the
15 indiscriminate throwing of unsolicited newspapers, handbills, advertisements, or other paper
16 materials on lawns, driveways, rights of way, or porches, or placed on any unoccupied vehicle, when
17 such materials can be blown around, can cause unsightly littering, clog storm drains, damage
18 waterways, and can cause the general decrease in the aesthetic quality of neighborhoods with
19 associated lowering of property values; and,

20

1 WHEREAS, the regulations of this ordinance constitute the minimum regulations necessary
2 relating to the time, place and manner of the distribution of unsolicited newspapers, handbills,
3 advertisements, or other paper materials, while at the same time providing a reasonable method of
4 delivering such materials to homes and persons without violating the provisions of this ordinance.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
6 COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY:

7 **Section 1. Regulation of Newspapers and Circulars, Unsolicited.** A new Article V within
8 Chapter 14 of the Hernando County Code, to be entitled “Newspapers and Circulars, Unsolicited,”
9 to read as follows:

10 **Section 14-121. Definitions.**

11 For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings
12 indicated:

13 DISTRIBUTOR - Shall mean any person who delivers or deposits, or causes
14 to be deposited, any printed matter.

15 PRINTED MATTER OR PRINTED MATERIALS - Any newspaper,
16 shopper, circular, leaflet, flyer, and all similar materials.

17 STOP NOTICE - Shall mean a written notice by the occupant of any building
18 or structure, or part thereof, in the unincorporated areas of Hernando County, Florida,
19 indicating that they desire to cease future delivery of any particular item or printed
20 matter described in the notice. For a written notice to constitute a stop notice, the

1 occupant must send the written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to
2 the address stated in the printed matter's masthead or on its front page.

3 UNSOLICITED - The printed matter referred to herein which has not been
4 ordered, subscribed to or requested by the recipient.

5 **Section 14-122. Delivery Restrictions.**

6 A. It shall be unlawful for any person to deliver or deposit any unsolicited
7 printed matters to or upon any private premises within unincorporated Hernando
8 County except in accordance with the terms of this section.

9 B. Printed matter shall be placed only within a permanently installed
10 appurtenance to the premises designed and designated for the receipt of such printed
11 matter, or if there is none, it shall be placed on the ground or floor at a point beneath
12 the place where such premises receives its mail or within a three-foot radius of that
13 point.

14 C. It shall be a violation of this article when unsolicited printed matter
15 is intentionally delivered to a private premises after the owner or occupant of said
16 premises has served a stop notice on the distributor.

17 **Section 14-123. Enforcement.**

18 A violation of this article shall constitute littering on private property in
19 violation Hernando County Code Section 14-67(3), as it may be amended or
20 re-numbered from time to time. Violations of this article may be prosecuted or

1 ameliorated pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Hernando County Litter
2 Ordinance, Hernando County Code s. 14-65, et seq., or the Hernando County
3 Property Maintenance Ordinance, Hernando County Code s. 15-161, et seq., as they
4 may be amended or re-numbered from time to time.

5 **Section 2. Severability.** It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County
6 Commissioners that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or provision of this
7 ordinance is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the
8 validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

9 **Section 3. Inclusion in the Code.** It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners
10 of Hernando County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall
11 become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Hernando County, Florida. To this end, the
12 sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and that
13 the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” or any other appropriate designation.

14 **Section 4. Conflicting Provisions Repealed.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in
15 conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

16 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon receipt of
17 official acknowledgment from the office of the Secretary of State of Florida that this ordinance has
18 been filed with said office.

19 **(The Remainder of this Page Has Been Intentionally Left Blank)**

