



OWOSSO PUBLIC SAFETY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 23, 2025

TO: Owosso City Council

FROM: Kevin Lenkart
Owosso Public Safety Chief

RE: Owosso City Ordinance Amendment - Fighting on School Property

Recommendation:

I recommend Council approve the attached resolution setting a public hearing for June 16, 2025 to receive citizen comment regarding the proposal to add Secs. 19-150 through 19-152 to Chapter 19, Offenses, Article VIII, *Offenses on School Grounds*, of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit fighting on school property.

Background:

Over the last two months, the Owosso Public Safety Department has worked in partnership with Owosso Public Schools to draft an ordinance to prohibit fighting on school property.

Currently the City of Owosso does not have an ordinance for fighting on school grounds. The adoption of this ordinance would prohibit this crime and permit Owosso Public Safety to enforce this ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO.

**SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO
AMEND CHAPTER 19, OFFENSES,
ARTICLE VIII, OFFENSES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
TO PROHIBIT FIGHTING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the Owosso Public Schools has requested the City of Owosso establish an ordinance prohibiting fighting on school grounds to assist them in keeping the schools a safe space for students; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso endorses the establishment of an ordinance to prohibit and deter fighting on school property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF OWOSSO ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: ADDITION. That Sec. 19-150, Fighting, definitions, be added to Chapter 19, Offenses, Article VIII, *Offenses on school grounds*, as follows:

Sec. 19-150. – Fighting, definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Fighting means personal violence between two or more individuals, including but not limited to punching, grabbing, wrestling, pulling, shoving, slapping, or any other unconsented physical contact or threat of physical contact.

School fighting means personal violence which occurs during school hours, at any event held before or after school, or at any social or sporting event hosted by the school.

School Property means real property owned or leased by a school, including but not limited to:

- a. Property used for school-sponsored events
- b. School buses or other school-provided transportation
- c. Any location during transit to or from school or any school-sponsored or school-related event

School property also includes locations not owned by the school where a school-sponsored event is occurring, including adjacent parking areas or other travel areas used to access the event.

SECTION 2: ADDITION. That Sec. 19-151, Prohibited conduct, be added to Chapter 19, Offenses, Article VIII, *Offenses on school grounds*, as follows:

Sec. 19-151. – Prohibited conduct.

No person shall engage in, participate in, or otherwise be involved in any school fighting or fighting on school property.

SECTION 3: ADDITION. That Sec. 19-152, Penalties, be added to Chapter 19, Offenses, Article VIII, *Offenses on school grounds*, as follows:

Sec. 19-152. – Penalties.

Any person who violates the above section is responsible for a civil infraction and may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50.00), plus court costs and any court-ordered remedial measures.

A second violation may result in a fine of up to one hundred dollars (\$100.00), any subsequent violation(s) may result in a fine up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), plus court costs and any court-ordered remedial measures.

If the Court orders remedial measures, including but not limited to community service and/or anger management classes, the person(s) ordered to complete such measures shall bear all associated costs.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing is set for Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing citizen comment regarding the proposed additions to Chapter 19, Offenses, of the Code of the City of Owosso.

SECTION 5. AVAILABILITY. This ordinance may be purchased or inspected in the city clerk's office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective 20 days after approval.