

**First Reading: September 28, 2021**  
**Second Reading: October 5, 2021**

ORDINANCE NO. 13719

AN ORDINANCE TO SUSPEND THE SECOND DIVISION OF CHATTANOOGA CITY COURT EFFECTIVE THE END OF THE CURRENT TERM AND BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, AND TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE SECTIONS 12-18 AND 12-19.

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**WHEREAS**, the City Council has the authority in this home rule municipality pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-17-101(b) to decrease the divisions of City Court when a term of a city court judge expires or when a vacancy in the office of a city court judge exists; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council currently desires to suspend the Second Division of City Court effective at the end of the term of the current City Judge of the because of current budget limitations in the FY22 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has been provided information during public meetings that two divisions of City Court are not necessary at this time and certain amendments should be made to Sections 12-18(b), 12-19, and 12-50 to reflect the reduction to one division of City Court effective upon certain conditions on or before August 31, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA,  
TENNESSEE:

**SECTION 1.** That the Second Division of City Court is hereby eliminated in the budget Ordinance of the City for FY22 at the end of the term of office of the current City Judge or effective

the first date of vacancy or the last date of the current term of the City Court Judges or August 31, 2022, whichever is sooner.

SECTION 2. That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 12, Section 12-18(b) is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following language is substituted in lieu thereof:

(b) All appearance bonds received by the City Court Clerk, his deputies, the police sergeant on duty, or any other officer authorized to receive appearance bonds for city court, shall be credited to and deposited in the checking account herein authorized. Whenever an individual who has posted an appearance bond in city court is entitled to the return of such bond, a city court judge, city court clerk, or any deputy clerk so authorized by the City Court Clerk, shall be authorized to draw a check against the checking account for the reimbursement of the bond.

SECTION 3. That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 12, Section 12-19 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following language is substituted in lieu thereof:

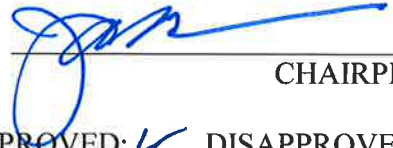
(a) A city judge is authorized to appoint or employ one (1) or more court officers subject to confirmation by the City Council and upon such terms and conditions as may be required by the City Council within annual budgetary limits for the City Court. A court officer so approved by the City Council shall likewise be appointed as a special policeman pursuant to Section 13.3 of the Charter Compilation. A court officer who is in attendance while court is in session shall be under the supervision of the presiding city judge and while court is in session all members of the police and fire department attending court shall be subordinate to and obey the instructions of the court officer. When court is not in session, or at times when a court officer is not needed for duty in the courtroom, or when not performing duties under the direction of a city judge all court officers shall then be engaged in serving warrants or other court process. The number of warrants or other court process served by a court officer shall be reported each week by the City Court Clerk to the City Judge, the Mayor, and the City Finance Officer. A court officer shall be an employee of the office of the City Court.

(b) A court officer may be discharged, suspended or otherwise disciplined by a City Judge.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall become effective the first date of vacancy or the last date of the current term of the City Court Judge, or August 31, 2022, whichever is sooner.

SECTION 5. That the City Council reserves its right to re-establish Division II, should another City Court division become necessary.

Passed on second and final reading: October 5, 2021



CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED:  DISAPPROVED:



MAYOR

EAO/mem/v2