

ORDINANCE 2026-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III, SECTION 14-103, “DISTURBING THE PEACE,” TO EXPAND PROHIBITED CONDUCT, INCREASE PENALTIES, PROVIDE FOR ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Baker finds that the protection of public peace, safety, order, and welfare is a core municipal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, disorderly, violent, intimidating, and disruptive conduct in public places undermines the safety of residents, visitors, businesses, and lawful assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the existing ordinance should be strengthened to provide clearer standards, more effective enforcement, and greater deterrence against repeat or aggravated violations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, that:

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the protection of public peace, safety, order, and welfare is a core municipal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, disorderly, violent, intimidating, and disruptive conduct in public places undermines the safety of residents, visitors, businesses, and lawful assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Baker further finds that the existing ordinance should be strengthened to provide clearer standards, more effective enforcement, and greater deterrence against repeat or aggravated violations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.

Section 14-103 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Sec. 14-103. Disturbing the peace.

(a) Disturbing the peace prohibited.

Disturbing the peace is the intentional, knowing, or reckless doing of any of the following in such manner as would foreseeably disturb, alarm, intimidate, annoy, disrupt, or endanger the public, any person lawfully present in a public place, or any lawful assembly:

(1) Engaging in, provoking, attempting, or participating in a fistic encounter, fight, or physical altercation, whether or not injury results.

(2) Addressing any offensive, derisive, abusive, obscene, threatening, or annoying words to any other person who is lawfully in any street or other public place; calling such person by any offensive or derisive name; or making any noise, exclamation, gesture, or display in the person’s presence and hearing with the intent to deride, offend, annoy, intimidate, provoke, or interfere with the person, or to prevent, hinder, or obstruct the person from pursuing lawful business, occupation, or duty.

(3) Appearing in an intoxicated condition in any public place in such a manner as to endanger oneself or others, create a public hazard, or cause a disturbance of the peace.

(4) Engaging in any violent, tumultuous, disorderly, riotous, or threatening act by three or more persons, where such conduct creates a risk of public alarm, injury, property damage, or interference with public order.

(5) Holding, organizing, promoting, encouraging, aiding, or participating in an unlawful assembly, or remaining at such assembly after being lawfully ordered to disperse by a law enforcement officer.

(6) Intentionally interrupting, obstructing, impeding, interfering with, or preventing the orderly conduct of any lawful assembly of people.

(7) Refusing or failing to comply with any lawful order of a law enforcement officer issued to prevent, stop, discontinue, or disperse conduct prohibited by this section.

(8) Repeatedly engaging in conduct prohibited by this section after prior warning, citation, or conviction, where such conduct demonstrates a continuing disregard for public peace and order.

(b) Penalties.

Whoever violates this section shall be fined not more than **one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)**, imprisoned for not more than **six (6) months**, or both.

Whoever violates Paragraphs **(a)(1), (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8)** shall be fined not more than **one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00)**, imprisoned for not more than **six (6) months**, or both.

For a second or subsequent violation of this section within a twelve-month period, the offender shall be subject to enhanced penalties of not more than **two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00)**, imprisonment for not more than **six (6) months**, or both, and may be ordered to perform community service, attend counseling, or comply with other conditions reasonably related to the offense.

(c) Separate offenses.

Each separate act, occurrence, or continuing course of conduct in violation of this section may constitute a separate offense, as determined by the enforcing authority and court.

(d) Authority to disperse and prevent escalation.

A law enforcement officer may order any person engaging in conduct prohibited by this section to cease such conduct and may order persons to disperse when necessary to preserve public safety, restore order, or prevent further disturbance. Failure to obey such lawful order shall constitute a violation of this section.

(e) Construction.

This section shall be liberally construed to protect the public peace, safety, order, and welfare of the municipality and to provide for the most effective lawful enforcement permitted by applicable law.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. 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 as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

And the Ordinance was presented May 12, 2026, at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 26th day of May, 2026 at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the Baker City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC, Clerk of Council

Darnell Waites, Mayor