Civic Beauty, Kid-Safe Streets & Honest Municipal Budgets Ordinance

Fixes sidewalks and kid-safe neighborhood streets, audits 40-year infrastructure liabilities, ends taxpayer-funded union release time, and builds lawful long-term family civic voice.

WHAT IT DOES

Creates a municipal sidewalk enterprise fund with 25-foot crosswalk daylighting and kid-safe loop streets. Requires 40-year fiscal audits, ends taxpayer union release time where permitted, and enacts 2-year board residency.

PREEMPTION STATUS

High city power over sidewalks and budget transparency. State enabling statutes govern Neighborhood Improvement Districts and public-labor rules.

WHO CAN ADOPT IT

City councils, finance committees, charter review commissions, and public-works directors seeking durable infrastructure solvency and family-anchored local governance.

30-SECOND COUNCIL PITCH

Families notice broken sidewalks, speeding cut-through traffic, and rising property taxes caused by hidden infrastructure debt. This draft puts municipal maintenance, honest 40-year accounting, and long-term resident stewardship back on solid ground.

1. WHY ORDINARY FAMILIES NEED THIS REFORM

Ordinary family neighborhoods decay through neglect of boring fundamentals: heaved sidewalks billed $8,000 at a time to surprised homeowners, cut-through traffic speeding past parks, annexations that add miles of pipe without enough tax base to replace them in 40 years (Urban3's audit of Lafayette, LA found $32 billion in liabilities against a $16 billion tax base), and general-fund budgets squeezed by legacy pension debt or taxpayer-funded union release time.

At the same time, cities in college towns and high-turnover metros often ask how permanent families can protect neighborhood priorities. Federal courts rapidly strike down attempts to bar students or renters from voting in general elections, sticking cities with plaintiff legal fees under 42 U.S.C. 1988. Honest governance skips unconstitutional ballot tricks and uses four court-tested tools instead: 1-to-3-year residency for appointed boards and elected seats, landowner-petitioned Neighborhood Improvement Districts for supplemental park and safety upkeep, parent-majority advisory boards, and transparent 40-year municipal ledgers.

2. JURISDICTION & PREEMPTION BOUNDARIES

CITY UNILATERAL

Enterprise sidewalk maintenance fund, 25-foot physical corner daylighting, street trees, cul-de-sac/loop residential street standards with pedestrian pass-throughs, voluntary traditional pattern books, 40-year value-per-acre fiscal notes, Open Checkbook API, ring-fenced capital reserves, 1-to-3-year appointed board residency, and parent-majority parks/library boards.

STATE ENABLING / CHECK

Neighborhood/Public Improvement Districts rely on state enabling acts (e.g., TX LGC Ch. 372, MO RSMo 67.453-67.475). Ending union release time, payroll dues deduction, or voluntary bargaining depends on state public-labor statutes and state Gift Clauses. States like TX (HB 2439), FL (HB 55), and NC (160D-702) bar mandatory single-family facade styles (use voluntary pattern books instead).

FEDERAL FLOOR

Symm v. United States (1979), Dunn v. Blumstein (1972), Kramer (1969), and Hill v. Stone (1975) forbid restricting general municipal, school, or bond ballots by student status, homeownership, or parenthood. Chimento/Sununu uphold 1-3 yr office residency; Salyer/Ball/Kessler uphold landowner-weighted special districts. Janus v. AFSCME (2018) bars mandatory public agency fees; UAW Local 3047 v. Hardin County (6th Cir. 2016) confirms federal NLRA preempts municipal private-sector Right-to-Work laws.

3. PRE-RESOLVED LOCAL PARAMETER PRESETS

Bracketed Parameter	Small Town (<15k)	Mid-Size (15k-100k)	Metro (>100k)
`[Sidewalk Enterprise Flat Fee]`	$100 / yr parcel	$150 / yr (Denver Ord. 307)	$150 / yr + frontage >230 ft
`[Corner Daylighting Clear Zone]`	25 ft physical bollards	25 ft physical bollards	25 ft bollards / bulb-outs
`[Capital Reserve Minimum]`	10% annual GF transfer	10% annual GF transfer	12% + 10% debt ceiling
`[Board & Office Residency]`	1 year resident	2 years resident	2 to 3 years resident
`[NID Landowner Petition Floor]`	>50% value & owners	>=60% value & area	>=66.6% owners (MO model)
`[Open Checkbook Publish Lag]`	Monthly CSV / JSON	Monthly CSV / JSON	Monthly API (NYC LL 11)

4. OPERATIVE ORDINANCE SUMMARY (SEVERABILITY INCLUDED)

Article 1. Enterprise Sidewalk Maintenance, Street Trees & Voluntary Pattern Books CITY UNILATERAL

Section 1.1 Municipal sidewalk enterprise fund. `[City]` assumes structural construction and repair of public sidewalks, funded by a flat `[$150]` annual parcel fee (with excess-frontage surcharge above `[230]` linear feet and low-income rebates), ending sudden multi-thousand-dollar assessments on homeowners for city-tree root heave. Snow and ice clearance remain the abutting owner's duty.

Article 2. Kid-Safe Residential Streets, Cul-de-Sacs & 25-Foot Daylighting CITY UNILATERAL

Section 2.1 Protected residential play streets. New and reconstructed local residential streets favor low-speed loops, 3-way T-intersections, and cul-de-sacs paired with mandatory paved pedestrian and bicycle pass-through paths linking blocks to parks and schools.

Article 3. 40-Year Value-Per-Acre Audits, Open Checkbook & Capital Reserves CITY UNILATERAL

Section 3.1 Lifecycle fiscal note. Before approving any annexation, greenfield subdivision, or tax abatement, `[City]` Finance publishes a 40-year Value-Per-Acre ledger comparing projected property/sales tax receipts against two full cycles of road, water, and sewer replacement.

Article 4. Taxpayer-Neutral Public-Sector Labor Rules (Where State Law Permits) CHECK STATE LABOR LAW

Section 4.1 End of taxpayer-funded union release time. Where not mandated by state statute or active collective-bargaining contract, `[City]` prohibits spending public tax funds or paid employee work hours on union administrative, lobbying, or bargaining business ('release time'), satisfying state constitutional Gift Clauses.

Article 5. Lawful Long-Term Family Stewardship: Board Residency & Landowner NIDs CHIMENTO / SALYER

Section 5.1 Durational residency for boards and council. Appointees to the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Parks Board, and Code Enforcement Board (and elected council seats where charter allows) must reside continuously in `[City]` for at least `[2]` years prior to appointment.

5. FISCAL & STAFFING CAPACITY NOTE

The flat $150/year sidewalk enterprise fee creates a dedicated, solvent capital fund (~$1.5M/year per 10,000 parcels) without raiding the general fund. 25-foot physical daylighting using bollards and paint costs ~$1,500 to $5,000 per corner. Publishing 40-year Value-Per-Acre ledgers prevents multi-million-dollar unfunded pipe liabilities before annexations are signed; ending taxpayer-paid release time redirects staff hours directly back to frontline public services.

6. FORWARD / ADAPT THIS BRIEF

Email Subject: 2-page brief: Sidewalk enterprise fund, 40-yr budget audits & kid-safe streets for [City]

AI Code Adaptation: Paste `https://familyflourishing.org/ordinance/md/civic-beauty-and-honest-budgets.md` into Claude, Gemini, or ChatGPT and ask it to map brackets to your municipal code and state preemption rules.

7. PRIMARY-SOURCE STATUTORY & EMPIRICAL CITATIONS

- **Denver Initiated Ordinance 307 (2022); Hoboken NJ N.J.S.A. 39:4-138; Carmel IN Roundabouts:** Flat-fee enterprise sidewalk funding, 7+ years of zero traffic deaths via 25-ft daylighting, and 47-80% injury reduction.
- **Eran Ben-Joseph (1995); Eric Dumbaugh & Robert Rae (2009); Build South Bend (2022-2024):** Cul-de-sac child-play safety balanced with arterial calming, plus preemption-safe voluntary pattern books.
- **Urban3 / Lafayette LA Audit; Checkbook NYC (LL 11 of 2012); SF Admin Code 3.20-3.21; NY GML 6-c:** 40-year Value-Per-Acre liability accounting, Open Checkbook transparency, and ring-fenced capital reserves.
- **Janus v. AFSCME, 585 U.S. 878 (2018); UAW Local 3047 v. Hardin County (6th Cir. 2016):** Public-sector agency-fee limits, taxpayer release-time Gift Clause boundaries, and NLRA preemption.
- **Chimento v. Stark (1973); Sununu v. Stark (1975); Salyer (1973); Ball v. James (1981); Kessler (2d Cir. 1998):** Lawful durational residency for office/boards and landowner-weighted special-purpose NIDs (TX Ch. 372, MO RSMo 67.453).