

LR30.105 PROPOSED:

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 135 TO THE STAMFORD CODE,
CONCERNING THE TRADE OF FUR PRODUCTS.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT:

Chapter 135, Fur Products, is hereby added to the Stamford Code as follows:

Chapter 135. Fur Products

135-1. – Legislative Intent. The Board of Representatives finds that:

A. Animals that are slaughtered for their fur endure tremendous suffering. Animals raised on fur farms typically spend their entire lives in cramped and filthy cages. Fur farmers typically use the cheapest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison.

B. Fur farms are reservoirs and transmission vectors for dangerous zoonotic diseases, including SARS coronaviruses, that threaten public health, including in the City of Stamford. COVID-19 infections have been confirmed at fur farms in Europe and the United States, and scientific studies have linked mink, raccoon dogs, and foxes – the animals most commonly farmed for their fur – to a variety of coronaviruses.

C. The fur production process is energy intensive and has a significant environmental impact, including air and water pollution. Runoff from the fur production process contains high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen, which are the most common forms of water pollution in the United States, including in Stamford. In addition, the tanning and dyeing processes used in fur production use toxic chemicals and heavy metals like chromium and formaldehyde.

D. Considering the wide array of alternatives for fashion and apparel, the Board of Representatives finds that the demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and cruel treatment of animals, harm to the environment, and the public health risks to the people of the City of Stamford caused by these practices.

E. The Board of Representatives finds that eliminating the sale of fur products in the City of Stamford will prevent animal cruelty, promote the health and welfare of the City's inhabitants, and provide for the protection of the environment. Prohibiting the sale of fur products will decrease the demand for these cruel and environmentally harmful products and promote community awareness of animal welfare and, in turn, will foster a more humane environment in the City of Stamford and enhance the reputation of the city.

135-2. – Definitions. As used in this section:

A. "Fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state.

B. "Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home accessories and décor, that is made in whole or part of fur. "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

1. An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into leather, or which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed;
2. Cowhide with the hair attached thereto;
3. Deerskin with the hair attached thereto;
4. Lambskin or sheepskin with the fleece attached thereto; or
5. The pelt or skin of any animal that is preserved through taxidermy or for the purpose of taxidermy.

C. "Non-profit organization" means any corporation that is organized under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) that is created for charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar purposes.

D. "Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing and preserving the skin of an animal that is deceased and stuffing and mounting it in lifelike form.

E. "Ultimate consumer" means an individual who buys a fur product for their own use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

F. "Used fur product" means a fur product that has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

135-3 – Prohibitions. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration a fur product in the city. For purposes of this section, a sale shall be deemed to occur at the location where the buyer takes physical possession of the item.

135-4. – Exemptions. The prohibitions set forth in Section 135-3 of this chapter do not apply to the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of:

A. A used fur product by an individual (excluding a retail transaction), non-profit organization, or second-hand store, including a pawn shop;

B. A fur product where the activity is expressly authorized by federal or state law.

135-5. – Enforcement and Penalties. In addition to other available methods of enforcement, this chapter may be enforced through the Civil Citation process as set forth in Section 97 of the Code of Ordinances. Any person who violates this chapter shall be liable for the general penalty set forth in Section 1-18 of the Code of Ordinances. Each fur product

and every day upon which any such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.

135-6. – Severability. Should any provision or section of this chapter be held unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining provisions or sections, it being the intent of the Board of Representatives that this chapter shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any provision or section thereof.

135-7. – Effective date. This chapter shall become effective six months after the date of its adoption by the Board of Representatives, or December 31, 2021, whichever occurs latest.