

**DRAFT Ordinance  
(Prohibit improper opening of vehicle door)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT IMPROPER OPENING OF VEHICLE DOOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VISION ZERO RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2021, the Council adopted a Vision Zero Resolution (2021-10-13/R-2) that commits to eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, ensuring safety of vulnerable road users supports this policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill as follows:

**Section 1.** That the Code of Ordinances, Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is hereby amended by adding a section, to be numbered Chapter 21, Article IV, Sec. 21-20.7, which reads as follows:

**“Sec. 21-20.7 – Improper opening or leaving open of vehicle door.**

- (1) No person shall open any door of a motor vehicle unless it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of moving traffic, including pedestrians and bicycles on sidewalks or shoulders. Nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.
- (2) Criminal penalties. Violation of any provision of this section shall be enforceable as a criminal offense and punishable as a misdemeanor, in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-4, and shall subject the violator to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days.”

**Section 2.** This ordinance is effective upon enactment.

This the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.