

ORDINANCE NO. 1426, FOURTH SERIES.

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DISTRIBUTION ULTIMATELY FOR USE BY CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS OF ANY BOOK MAGAZINE, OR OTHER PUBLICATION, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "COMIC BOOKS," IN WHICH THERE IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED AN ACCOUNT OF CRIME, AND WHICH DEPICTS BY THE USE OF DRAWINGS OR PHOTOGRAPHS THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF CERTAIN CRIMES OF FORCE, VIOLENCE, OR BLOODSHED, AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the Council finds as a fact that there is a great increase in the number and variety of illustrated crime books, magazines and other publications commonly known as "Comic Books" being distributed and offered for sale within this city which substantially feature crimes of force, violence, or bloodshed and are sold under the guise of children's humorous and adventure magazines; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds as a fact that the minds of children under the age of 18 years are in a formative state and that their future character and way of life can be easily influenced into a disrespect for law and order by their continued reading of illustrated stories and accounts of criminal acts of force, violence, or bloodshed, which effectively minimize the dangers surrounding the commission of such crimes; and

WHEREAS, the distribution and sale of such types of books, magazines or other publications commonly known as "Comic Books" to children of tender years is a public nuisance and detrimental to the public welfare,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to distribute, give away or in any way cause to be furnished ultimately for use by persons under the age of eighteen years any book, magazine or other publication, commonly known as "Comic Books" in which there is prominently featured an account of crime, and which depicts, by the use of drawings or photographs, the commission or attempted commission of the crimes of arson, assault with caustic chemicals, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, kidnapping, torture, mayhem, murder, rape, robbery, theft, or voluntary manslaughter.

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall not be construed to in anyway prohibit the publication of actual accounts of crime, nor to the drawings or photographs used to

illustrate such accounts, which are a part of the general dissemination of news; nor shall it apply to the publication, distribution or dissemination of "Syndicated Comic Sections" which form a part of an established newspaper engaged in the general circulation of news.

SECTION 3: Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, or by imprisonment in the City Jail for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

PASSED: February 18th, 1949.

EFFECTIVE: March 20th, 1949.

Beverly B. Coe  
MAYOR.

ATTEST:

A. G. Denton  
CITY CLERK.