

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 76 (DISORDERLY CONDUCT) TO INCLUDE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS FOR IMPROPER ENTRIES ONTO REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to amend Chapter 76 (Disorderly Conduct) of the municipal code of the Township of Bridgewater to provide for more protection for the real property of the residents of Bridgewater Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 76 is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION I.

Section 76-3.2 is hereby inserted into the municipal code and shall be entitled “Improper Entries onto Real Property” and shall appear therein as follows:

A. Improper Entry onto Real Property

- (1) It shall be illegal and a violation of this ordinance for a person to knowingly enter or remain on any private property they are not licensed or privileged to enter or remain and commit any of the following acts:
 - (a) pull a door handle, turn a doorknob, or take any action in an attempt to open, unlock, or gain entry into a house, apartment, garage, or other structure that the person does not own or have license or privilege to enter or remain; or
 - (b) enter any house, apartment, garage, or other structure that the person does not own or have license or privilege to enter or remain.
- (2) It shall be illegal and a violation of this ordinance for a person to be knowingly present inside any house, apartment, garage, or other structure if another occupant committed a violation of subsection (1) prior to their entry into the house, apartment, garage, or other structure.
- (3) It shall be illegal and a violation of this ordinance for a person to be knowingly present inside a motor vehicle if another occupant of the motor vehicle committed a violation of paragraph (1) prior to their entry into the motor vehicle.

B. Improper Interference with Parked Motor Vehicle

- (1) It shall be illegal and a violation of this ordinance for a person to knowingly enter or remain on any private driveway, private parking lot or other location on private property in the presence of a stationary motor vehicle, knowing that they are not licensed or privileged to enter or remain, and commit any of the following acts:

- (a) pull a door handle or take any action in an attempt to open or unlock a motor vehicle that the person does not own or have license or privilege to possess: or
 - (b) possess an electronic device that is capable of determining if an electronic key is located inside a motor vehicle.
- (3) It shall be illegal and a violation of this ordinance for a person knowingly to be present inside a motor vehicle if another occupant of the motor vehicle committed a violation of subsection (1) prior to their entry into the motor vehicle.

SECTION II. If any part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

SECTION III. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reasons, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION IV. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law.

Adopted: June 27, 2024

Effective: July 17, 2024