

**Ordinance #2023-25**

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON REGULATING ABANDONED BICYCLES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1974".**

WHEREAS, Princeton Police Department has recommended that the Municipality of Princeton formally adopt a section for inclusion in Chapter 22 of the "Code of the Borough of Princeton, New Jersey, 1974," to regulate the designation and removal of abandoned bicycles and scooters from municipal property, including but not limited to municipal parks and recreation areas, rights-of-way, streets, roads and sidewalks, for purposes of (1) maintaining these areas free and clear of abandoned bicycles and scooters and accompanying debris, (2) ensuring the availability of space for the parking of bicycles and scooters actively in use and (3) ensuring the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and others when on municipal property; and

WHEREAS, Princeton Council wishes to adopt said Code revisions at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Princeton Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 22 of the "Code of the Borough of Princeton, New Jersey, 1974", entitled "Miscellaneous Offenses," is hereby amended by adding a new section 22-13 thereto as follows:

**Sec. 22-13. Abandonment of bicycles and scooters.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to abandon any bicycle or scooter on Princeton property, which for purposes of this section shall include but not be limited to any municipal park or recreation area or any portion of the municipal right-of-way, road, street or sidewalk.

- (b) For purposes of this section, “bicycle” shall mean a manual bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle or motorized bicycle, and “scooter” shall mean a manual scooter or low-speed electric scooter. This section shall not apply to any motor vehicle as defined by law or this Code.
- (c) In addition to the enforcement of penalties for the violation of this section under section 1-6 of this Code, the municipality shall have the authority to remove any abandoned bicycle or scooter from Princeton property in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.
- (c) A bicycle or scooter may be deemed to be abandoned by the municipality if the municipality determines that:
1. It has been parked or otherwise left unattended for a period of seven or more consecutive days in the same location; or
  2. It visually appears to be in a state of disuse such that it has deflated tires, a rusted chain, accumulated leaves or other debris associated with it, bent or missing wheels, bent handlebars, or other missing parts; or
  3. Seventy-five (75%) percent or more of the bicycle or scooter is rusted; or
  4. It is found in any other condition in which a bicycle or scooter may reasonably be considered to be abandoned.
- (d) In the event the municipality determines that a bicycle or scooter has been abandoned as set forth in subsection (c) above, the municipality shall have the authority to place an abandoned bicycle/scooter notice, in the form of an adhesive sticker or tag, on the bicycle or scooter itself, the purpose of which notice is to

advise the owner/user of the bicycle or scooter that the municipality has deemed said bicycle or scooter to be abandoned pursuant to this subsection and that it will be removed and disposed of if not moved within a specified amount of time. Said notice shall state the following at a minimum:

1. The date after which the bicycle or scooter may be removed if the owner/user does not remove and reclaim it; and
2. The name and contact information for a municipal representative to contact in the event that the bicycle or scooter has been mistakenly identified as abandoned.

(e) Once an abandoned notice sticker or tag has been placed on a bicycle or scooter under subsection (d) above, the owner/user of the bicycle or scooter shall have 14 calendar days (as set forth on the notice sticker/tag) to remove the bicycle or scooter from the location. If it is not removed within the 14-calendar-day notice period as provided on the sticker or tag, the municipality may thereafter remove the bicycle or scooter from its location by any means necessary and dispose of same in accordance with the law, which shall include but not be limited to the sale or donation of said bicycle or scooter.

(f) The Princeton police department shall be responsible for enforcing and administering the provisions of this section, including the authority to delegate certain duties under this section to such other municipal departments as may be necessary or appropriate.

Section 2. All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

Section 4. The provisions of this ordinance shall be applicable within Princeton upon final adoption and shall become a part of the new Princeton Code once completed and adopted.

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Rayna E. Harris, Municipal Clerk

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Mark Freda, Mayor

Ordinance Introduced: July 24, 2023  
Ordinance Adopted: August 14, 2023

**NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS:**

First Insertion: July 28, 2023  
Final Insertion: August 25, 2023

This ordinance formally establishes procedures for the designation of abandoned bicycles and scooters on municipal property and enables the municipality to effectively remove and dispose of same.