



Township Council

c/o Township Clerk
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Meeting: 12/13/22 08:00 PM

Department: Township Clerk

Category: Amend

DOC ID: 7547

ORDINANCE (ID # 7547)

Ordinance No. 58-2022 AMENDING SECTION 27-3, BEHAVIOR IN PARKS, OF CHAPTER 27, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK PERTAINING TO UNATTENDED MINORS IN THE PARKS BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck that Ordinance #58-2022 pass upon second and final reading and that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law and to provide the appropriate notices in accordance with law.

AMENDING SECTION 27-3, BEHAVIOR IN PARKS, OF CHAPTER 27, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK PERTAINING TO UNATTENDED MINORS IN THE PARKS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck that Ordinance #58-2022 pass upon second and final reading and that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law and to provide the appropriate notices in accordance with law.

HISTORY:

11/22/22 Township Council INTRODUCED

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilman Kaplan suggested the following minor changes upon adoption - first by Mayor Dunleavy, seconded by Councilman Pagan, Council agreed:

SECTION 1. Section 27-3, "Behavior in parks," of Chapter 27, "Parks and Playgrounds," of the Code of the Township of Teaneck, is hereby amended to add thereto paragraph (o) to read as follows:

"(o) Permitted Use By Minors Minor children of sufficient maturity are permitted in Teaneck's Parks and Playgrounds and may participate independently in activities that a reasonable and prudent adult would consider safe given the child's maturity, condition, and abilities, including but not limited to the following activities:

(a) traveling to and from school, including walking, running, bicycling, or other similar mode of travel;

(b) traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities; or

(c) engaging in outdoor play.

- 1) Councilwoman Hillary Goldberg - expressed no support for this proposed ordinance, and spoke on the concept of when police must become involved in family matters.
- 2) Alan Sohn - expressed no support for this ordinance.
- 3) Howard Rose - expressed no support for this ordinance.
- 4) Yassine Elkaryani - expressed no support for this ordinance.
- 5) LaVerne Lightburn - expressed no support for this ordinance.
- 6) Miriam Gedwiser - expressed support for this ordinance.

Councilman Kaplan detailed this ordinance is intended to limit to police interactions with bystanding children.

Councilwoman Romney-Rice expressed initial support for the idea of trying to limit unnecessary police interactions with bystanding children, and hopes this can be used to build more community.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Keith Kaplan, Councilman
SECONDER:	Mark J. Schwartz, Deputy Mayor
AYES:	Mark J. Schwartz, Gervonn Romney Rice, Keith Kaplan, Michael S Pagan
NAYS:	James Dunleavy
ABSENT:	Elie Y. Katz
AWAY:	Karen Orgen

TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

ORDINANCE NO. 58-2022 AMENDING SECTION 27-3, BEHAVIOR IN PARKS, OF CHAPTER 27, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK PERTAINING TO UNATTENDED MINORS IN THE PARKS BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK THAT ORDINANCE #58-2022 PASS UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND THAT THE TOWNSHIP CLERK IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO ADVERTISE THE SAME ACCORDING TO LAW AND TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE NOTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

WHEREAS, incidents have occurred where unattended minor children were found walking alone in one of the Township's public parks, which caused the Teaneck Police to attempt to learn the identity of the child, locate the parents and return the child to the parents; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that permitting minor children to access public parks and playgrounds of the Township of Teaneck enables children to learn resilience by walking, bicycling, playing, helping out, and solving problems without constant adult intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that parents and guardians often are in the best position to weigh the risks and make decisions concerning the safety of children under their care, including where their children may go, with whom, and when;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck, Bergen County, New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 27-3, "Behavior in parks," of Chapter 27, "Parks and Playgrounds," of the Code of the Township of Teaneck, is hereby amended to add thereto paragraph (o) to read as follows:

"(o) Permitted Use By Minors - Minor children of sufficient maturity are permitted in Teaneck's Parks and Playgrounds and may participate independently in activities that a reasonable and prudent adult would consider safe given the child's maturity, condition, and abilities, including but not limited to the following activities:

(a) traveling to and from school, including walking, running, bicycling, or other similar mode of travel;

(b) traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities; or

(c) engaging in outdoor play.

SECTION 2. Severability.

If any section, sentence, clause or other portion of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall, for any reason, be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such judgement shall not affect, impair or repeal the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. Inconsistency.

All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions hereof, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective date.

This ordinance shall take effect 20 days following passage and publication as required by law.

ATTEST:

Doug Ruccione
Township Clerk

Dr. James Dunleavy,
Mayor