

ORDINANCE NO. 838
AS AMENDED BY
ORDINANCE NO: 917 AND 1109

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF UNION CITY, ERIE
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DEFINING LITTER AND
PROVIDING FOR ITS CONTROL.

The Borough of Union City ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared and found that litter carelessly deposited In the Borough is the cause of civic disgrace; that litter is a health, fire and safety hazard and pollutant; that an all-out litter control campaign can result in substantial savings to taxpayers of the Borough; that litter is a matter affecting the public interest and consequently should be subject to supervision and administrative control for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Borough.

SECTION 2. Definitions; word usage.

A. Terms Defined. As used in this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings indicated:

- (1) Borough - The Borough of Union City in the County of Erie.
- (2) Commercial Handbill - Any printed or written matter, any sample or device, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copy of any matter of literature which:
 - (a) Advertises for sale any merchandise, product, commodity, or thing.
 - (b) Directs attention to any business or mercantile or commercial establishment or other activity for the purpose of either directly or indirectly promoting the interest thereof by sales.
 - (c) Directs attention to or advertises any meeting, theatrical performance, exhibition, or event of any kind for which an admission fee is charged for the purpose of private gain or profit.
 - (d) While containing reading matter other than advertising matter, is predominantly an advertisement and is distributed or circulated for advertising purposes or for the private benefit and gain of any person-so engaged as advertiser or distributor.
- (3) Commercial Place - Any store or building or group thereof, including shopping centers, shopping plazas and other similar places wherein mercantile activities and services are offered to the public, and includes all parking areas thereat.
- (4) Garbage - Putrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

- (5) Litter - Garbage, refuse, and defined herein, and all other waste material which, if thrown or deposited as herein prohibited, tends to create a danger to public health, safety and welfare or creates unsightliness.
- (6) Newspaper - Any newspaper of general circulation, as defined by law; any newspaper duly entered with the Post Office Department of the United States in accordance with federal statute or regulation; and any newspaper filed and recorded with any recording officer, as provided by law.

In addition thereto, "newspaper" shall mean and include any periodical or current magazine regularly published with not less than four (4) issues per year and sold to the public.

- (7) Non-commercial Handbill - Any printed or written matter, any sample or device, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, newspaper, magazine, paper, booklet or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copies of any matter of literature not included in aforesaid definitions of "commercial handbill" and "newspaper". This definition shall include advertising or other printed material distributed in connection with any political campaign.
- (8) Park - A park, reservation, playground, beach, recreation center or any other public area in the Borough owned or used by the Borough and devoted to active or passive recreation,
- (9) Person - Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- (10) Political Advertising - Any sign or handbill which bears a message seeking further the candidacy of a person running for federal, state, county, municipal, Board of Education, or other office, or which seeks to influence the public concerning any public referendum.
- (11) Private Premises - Any dwelling, house, building or other structure designed or used either wholly or in part, for private residential purposes, whether inhabited or temporarily or continuously uninhabited or vacant, and includes any yard, grounds, walk, driveway, porch, steps, vestibule or mailbox belonging or appurtenant to such dwelling, house, building or other structure. .
- (12) Public Place - Any and all streets, sidewalks, boulevards, alleys, or public ways, and any and all public parks, squares, spaces, grounds and buildings. .
- (13) Refuse - All putrescible and nonputrescible solid wastes (except body wastes) including garbage, rubbish, ashes, street cleanings, dead animals, abandoned automobiles and solid market and industrial wastes.
- (14) Rubbish - Nonputrescible solid wastes consisting of both combustible and noncombustible wastes such as yard clippings, leaves, wood, glass, bedding, crockery and similar materials.

- (15) Vehicle - Every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, including devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

B. Word Usage. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

SECTION 3.

A. Littering Public Places. No person shall deposit or throw litter in or upon any street, sidewalk or other public place within the Borough except in public receptacles, in private receptacles for collection, in official Borough dumps or in rubbish pits.

B. Placing Litter in Receptacles. Persons placing litter in public receptacles or in private receptacles shall do so in such a manner as to prevent it from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street, sidewalk or other public place or upon private property.

C. Sweeping Litter into Gutters and Streets. No person shall sweep or deposit in any gutter, street or other place within the Borough the accumulation of litter from any building or litter from any public side-walk or driveway,

D. Littering from Vehicles. No person while a driver or passenger in a vehicle shall throw or deposit litter upon any street or public place within the Borough or upon private property.

E. Trucks Causing Litter. No person shall drive or move any truck or other vehicle within the Borough unless such vehicle is so constructed or leaded as to prevent any load, contents, or litter from being blown or deposited upon any street, alley or other public place or upon private property.

F. Littering Parks. No person shall throw or deposit litter in any park within the Borough except in public receptacles and in such a manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any part of the park or upon any street or other public place. Where public receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere as provided herein.

G. Littering Public Waters. No person shall throw or deposit litter in any fountain, spring, pond, lake, stream, bay or any other body of water in a park or elsewhere within the Borough.

H. Littering Private and Commercial Premises. No person shall throw or deposit litter on any occupied private property or commercial place within the Borough, whether owned by such person or not, except that the owner or person in control of such private property or commercial place may maintain authorized private receptacles for collection in such a manner that litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street or other public place or upon any private property.

I. Owners to Keep Commercial Premises Free of Litter. Each owner or person in control of any commercial place, including shopping centers and delivery and parking areas thereat, shall keep said place, parking fields, parking areas, delivery areas, and other open areas which are a part of such commercial place free from litter.

J. Owners to Keep Private Places Free from Litter. The owner or person in control of any private property shall at all times maintain the premises free from litter; provided, however, that this section shall not prohibit the storage of litter in authorized receptacles for collection

K. Littering Vacant Lots. No person shall throw or deposit litter on any open or vacant private property within the Borough whether owned by such person or not.

L. Notice to Remove. The Chief of Police is hereby authorized and empowered to notify the owner of said property, by regular mail, to properly dispose of litter located on said owner's property which is a nuisance and/or dangerous to public health, safety, or welfare within fifteen (15) days of the postmark on the letter. If said owner has not complied with the letter sent by regular mail within the allotted time, another letter shall be sent to said owner by certified mail. The owner shall be determined by reviewing the County assessment records of the most current year. (Amended by Ord. No. 917; Enacted October 7, 1987)

SECTION 4. Distribution of Handbills

A. Handbills in Public Places. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbills in or upon any sidewalk, street or other public place within the Borough.

B. Handbills on Vehicles. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in or upon any vehicle; provided, however, that it shall not be unlawful in any public place for a person to hand out or distribute without charge to the receiver thereof a noncommercial handbill to any occupant of a vehicle who is willing to accept it.

C. Handbills on Vacant Premises. No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in or upon any private premises which are temporarily or continuously uninhabited or vacant.

D. Handbills on Private Premises.

- (1) No person shall throw, deposit, or distribute any commercial or non-commercial handbill in or upon private premises which are inhabited, except by handing or transmitting any such handbill directly to the owner, occupant, or other person then present in or upon such private premises.
- (2) Exemption for Mail and Newspapers - The provisions of this section shall not apply to the distribution of mail by the United States Postal Service nor to newspapers (as defined herein), except that newspapers shall be placed on private property in such a manner as to prevent their being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street or other public place or upon private property.

SECTION 5. Enforcement. The Police Department of the Borough of Union City, upon receiving a complaint or information regarding littering, shall investigate the complaint or information, and upon a finding of probable cause to believe that any person(s) has violated this Ordinance, issue or cause to be issued to such person(s) a written warning which shall notify such person(s) of the violation to prevent future violations of this Ordinance.


The Police Department shall maintain a record of all warnings served and upon receiving a second complaint or information alleging a violation of this Ordinance, investigate the alleged violation. Upon a finding of probable cause to believe any person(s) has again violated this Ordinance, then, in that event, the Police Department shall initiate summary proceedings against such person(s) in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure. (Amended by Ord. No. 1109; Enacted May 2, 2017.)

SECTION 6. Any person who shall be convicted of violating or failing to comply with the provisions of this ordinance before any District Magistrate shall be punishable by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) together with costs of prosecution and in default of such fine and costs, such violator shall be subject to imprisonment in the County Jail for a term not to exceed thirty (30) days. The continuation of such violation for each successive day shall constitute a separate offense, and the person or persons allowing or permitting the continuation of a violation may be punished as provided above for each separate offense. (Amended by Ord. No. 1109; Enacted May 2, 2017.)

SECTION 7. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. (Amended by Ord. No. 1109; Enacted May 2, 2017.)

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy and consolidation of Ordinance No. 838 enacted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Union City on August 3, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 917 enacted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Union City on October 7, 1987, and Ordinance No. 1109 enacted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Union City on May 2, 2017.


Borough Secretary

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