ORDINANCE NO. 2026-26

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CREATING CHAPTER 380 ENTITLED "MINORS AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY" TO IMPOSE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS OF MINORS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OFFENDING BEHAVIOR

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Phillipsburg, County of Warren, State of New Jersey wishes to amend and supplement the Phillipsburg Town Code by creating a new chapter – Chapter 380 – imposing certain rules, regulations, and responsibilities onto parents and/or legal guardians of minor children who commit certain enumerated offenses; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that the creation of this Chapter is in the best interest of the Town and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Phillipsburg, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Phillipsburg Town Code is hereby amended and supplemented by the creation of Chapter 380, entitled "Minors and Parental Responsibility" imposing certain rules, regulations, and responsibilities onto parents and/or legal guardians of minor children who commit certain enumerated offenses, as follows:

SECTION I:

CHAPTER 380 – MINORS AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

§ 380-1. Definitions.

Minor – Any individual under the age of eighteen (18) years of age.

Parent – Any natural parent who is responsible for the care, custody, and control of a minor child.

Legal Guardian – A person, other than a parent, to whom legal custody of the minor child has been given by court order.

Public Place – Any place to which the public has access, including, but not limited to, a public street, road, throughfare, sidewalk, plaza, park, recreation or shopping area, public transportation facility(ies), vehicle used for public transportation, parking lot, or any other public building, structure, and/or area.

Supervision – The exercise of control over a minor child, knowing his whereabouts, with whom he associates, and in what activities he may engage in which could affect or offend the public peace, safety and morals.

§ 380-2. Enumeration of Offenses.

A. Offenses against public peace, safety and morals shall be punishable as herein provided.

B. Offenses against public health, safety, and decency are hereby defined to include the following:

   a. A felony or misdemeanor, as codified under the criminal laws of the State of New Jersey, Title 2C.
   b. Violations of Chapters 56, *Firearms and Weapons*, Chapter 165, *Alcoholic Beverages*, Article III, or Chapter 428, *Peace and Good Order*.

§ 380-3. Parental Responsibility.

It shall be unlawful for any parent or legal guardian by any act or word, or by the failure to act or by the lack of supervision and control over said minor to encourage, contribute toward, cause or tend to cause said minor to commit the offenses enumerated in this Ordinance within the Town of Phillipsburg.

§ 380-4. Apprehension of Violators.

When any minor is convicted of the offenses enumerated in this Chapter 380-2, the parent or legal guardian of said minor may be summoned before a Judge of the Municipal Court of the Town of Phillipsburg and ordered to provide supervision of the minor. If the minor is convicted a second time of the offenses enumerated in this Chapter 380-2 within eighteen (18) months of the first conviction, such second conviction shall create a rebuttable presumption that the parent or legal guardian of said minor has violated the provisions of this Chapter 380-3 and the parent or legal guardian may be summoned to appear before a Judge of the Municipal Court. If convicted, the parent or legal guardian shall be subject to the penalties herein.

§ 380-5. Violations and Penalties.

Any person(s) found to be in violation of the provisions of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the General Penalties Provision set forth in Chapter 1-15 of the Phillipsburg Town Code.

SECTION II: Repealer.

All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION III: Severability.

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase, or sentence of this Ordinance is, for any reason, declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, such article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase, or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION IV: Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication, as provided by law.

Mayor Randy S. Piazza, Jr.

Attest: Susan Turner, Acting Clerk

Date: 11/4/26

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Phillipsburg held on October 13, 2026, and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Town Council to be held on October 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the Town Council may hear this Ordinance at the Envision Center Community Room, 535 Fisher Ave, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

CERTIFICATION

I, Susan Turner, Acting Municipal Clerk for the Town of Phillipsburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council at their October 27, 2026 meeting.

Susan Turner Acting Municipal Clerk