

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 11-2019**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 225-5 OF THE NORTHFIELD
MUNICIPAL CODE, LITTERING PROHIBITED**

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has previously adopted Code Section 225-5, which prohibits littering in the City of Northfield; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Northfield, Atlantic County, is of the opinion that the public interest will best be served by amending Code Section 225-5 to, inter alia, prohibit the release of helium balloons in the City of Northfield; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, and State of New Jersey that the Code of the City of Northfield is hereby amended as follows (added text underlined; deleted text ~~stricken~~):

§ 225-5 Littering prohibited and Balloon Release.

A. Litter shall not be thrown, deposited or be permitted to collect or remain in any place, public or private, where it may affect the health, welfare or safety of the public or render streets or private places unsightly.

B. Balloon Release.

1. Purpose. This section is adopted in order to protect the environment, particularly the wildlife and marine animals, and the health, safety and well-being of persons and property by prohibiting the release of helium balloons into the atmosphere, including latex and Mylar, as it has been determined that the release of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases pose a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals so as to constitute a public nuisance and may pose a threat to the safety of its residents and their property. It has further been determined that wildlife and marine animals may mistake balloons for food which can cause severe injury or death to the animal, that many animals become entangled in balloon strings and area injured or strangled to death as a result, that it is necessary to achieve a significant reduction in balloon debris and the environmental harm this debris causes.

2. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

HELIUM - An inert gas which is lighter than air.

LATEX BALLOONS - Latex balloons made from latex rubber which is molded into various shapes, and ordinary air, or other gases such as helium, can be forced into them for expansion purposes.

MYLAR BALLOONS – These balloons are made of a material called "Mylar" which is a durable metallic material that has a degree of stretch.

3. It shall be unlawful in the City of Northfield for any person, firm or corporation to intentionally release, organize the release of, or intentionally cause to be released balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter-than-air within the with the exception of the following:

- a. Balloon(s) released by a person on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes;
- b. Hot air balloons recovered after launching;
- c. Balloons released indoors.

REPEALER - All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SEVERABILITY - If any portion of this ordinance shall be determined to be invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of said ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

Mary Canesi, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Erland Chau
Mayor

The above Ordinance was passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, New Jersey on the 16th day of July, 2019, and will be taken up for a second reading, public hearing and final passage at a meeting of said council held on the 13th day of August, 2019, in Council Chambers, City Hall, Northfield, New Jersey.

FIRST READING:	July 16, 2019
PUBLICATION:	July 20, 2019
SECOND READING:	August 13, 2019
PUBLICATION:	August 17, 2019