

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER XIV, ENTITLED "ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT" OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY SO AS TO AMEND SECTION 14-55, ENTITLED "CADET MEMBERS"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berkeley, County of Ocean, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 14 of the Township Code of the Township of Berkeley, entitled "Establishment of the Police Department and the Volunteer Fire Department," is hereby amended and supplemented so as to amend Section 14-55, entitled "Cadet Members," which shall now read as follows:

§ 14-55. Junior Firefighters

A. Eligibility for Membership:

Any individual between 16 and 18 years of age shall be eligible for membership into the Junior Firefighter Program. No individual shall become approved unless permission is obtained from their parents or guardian. Permission shall be in writing. A copy of the written permission shall be forwarded to the Fire Chief and President. The original will be placed in the personnel folder. No applicant shall become a Junior Firefighter until approved by the Township of Berkeley.

B. Insurance Coverage:

Junior Firefighters shall be insured with the same degree of coverage and in the same amount as provided for the regular volunteer firefighters serving in the respective volunteer fire company.

C. Rules and Regulations:

The following Rules and Regulations are designed to provide for the training of members of the Junior Firefighters Program for eventual membership in a volunteer fire department and to govern the activities of the Junior Firefighters in a manner to ensure safety and minimize the risk of injury.

1. No Junior Firefighter shall be required to perform duties which would expose them to the same degree of hazard as a regular firefighter.
2. No Junior Firefighter shall be permitted to engage in firefighting or be in an area of a hazardous condition involving the handling of dangerous or poisonous materials.
3. A Junior Firefighter shall be considered on probation and may be expelled from the program at any time for just cause.
4. A Junior Firefighter shall receive a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws and SOPs of his/her respective fire company and must abide by and comply with them.

5. A Junior Firefighter shall obey all directives of the Fire Chief or any other Officer.
6. No Junior Firefighter shall be inside the firehouse, without a regular member, at any time.
7. Junior Firefighters, upon induction into the Fire Department, shall not ride on apparatus until he/she has received minimum training set forth by the Fire Chief.
8. Junior Firefighters, after receiving proper training, can be assigned tasks on the fire ground by the Officer in Charge. After the task is completed, the Junior Firefighter shall stay with the apparatus driver unless directed by said driver or officer in charge.
9. Junior Firefighters are permitted to respond to a fire call on the apparatus but may only ride in the cab in a seated position. While riding apparatus, all Junior Members will wear full turnout gear and seat belts.
10. Junior Firefighters, when permitted to respond to alarms, will respond to the firehouse, and not to a scene unless permission is given by the Fire Chief.
11. Junior Firefighters shall be allowed to respond to alarms on the first responding apparatus, provided there are enough regular members on board.
12. Junior Firefighters, while on a fire scene, are permitted to work under the supervision of the Officer in charge in safe areas of the fire ground.
13. Junior Firefighters are **NOT** permitted to enter an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment or any other environment where SCBA would be required.
14. Junior Firefighters shall **NOT** be permitted to respond to any hazardous material incident.
15. Junior Firefighters **will not** be permitted to respond to alarms between the hours of 8pm to 8am. Should a Junior Firefighter be on a scene, which extends past these hours, efforts will be made to transport the Junior Firefighter back to the firehouse.
16. Junior Firefighters **will not** be permitted to respond to mutual aid calls.
17. Junior Firefighters **will not** be permitted to respond to alarms during school hours while school is in session.
18. Junior Firefighters **will not** be issued, nor will they be permitted to use emergency lighting on their vehicles.
19. Junior Firefighters **will not** be issued a pager until they are in the program for at least one month. Pagers **are not** permitted in school. Violation of this rule is grounds for automatic termination from the Junior Firefighter program.
20. Junior Firefighters shall not respond with any other fire company, except for the volunteer fire company of which he/she is a member.

21. Junior Firefighters will be assigned turn out gear of which the helmet will be distinctively marked.
22. Junior Firefighters will assist in cleaning the apparatus, the station, and under the direction of the officer in charge, assist in returning equipment to the apparatus.
23. Actual use of the equipment shall be encouraged whenever it has been deemed advisable by the fire company and/or its designated officer, provided that a Junior Firefighter shall not be exposed to any danger, adequate supervision shall be provided, and all possible safety precautions shall have been taken. In no case shall Junior Firefighters be permitted to operate any vehicle or power tools.
24. It shall be the responsibility of all fire company members to report to a Line Officer any violation of a Junior Firefighter.
25. Junior Firefighters shall hold a school grade average no lower than a "C" and no single grade lower than a "D". If grade average isn't maintained or receives an "F", said Junior Firefighters will be suspended a minimum of four weeks and must have parental permission to return. Each Junior Firefighter shall provide the Chief and /or President a copy of their report cards each marking period.
26. The Junior's parents at any time, may pull the child from the program. Notification must be made to the Fire Chief and President.
27. Junior Firefighters shall NOT be permitted to consume or handle any alcoholic beverages. Consumption of alcoholic beverages will result in immediate expulsion.
28. Junior Firefighters must make monthly drills and work details to be able ride fire apparatus and to keep an active status in the program.
29. Any Junior Firefighters who receive a suspension from school must report it to the Chief and President within 48 hours. The Junior shall be suspended from the Fire Department for a minimum of the same amount of time the school suspension is. Failure to report a school suspension shall result in immediate expulsion.
30. The Chief, President or Junior Program Advisor should offer to meet with parents / guardians of each Junior member biannually, or any time a meeting is requested. The purpose is to keep an open line of communication.
31. Junior Firefighters and Program Advisors shall meet at least once a month at the station for a training session separate from the company drills.
32. The Program Advisors shall report to the Chief and/or Line Officers, as per the department organizational chart.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a 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 portions hereof.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by law.



John A Bacchione, Mayor



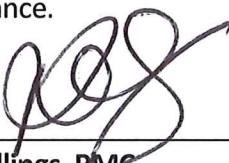
Angelo Guadagno, Council President



Michael Signorile, Council Vice President

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Berkeley, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, held on April 21, 2025 and will be considered for second reading and final passage at the regular meeting of said Governing Body to be held on the 19th day of May, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached, at the meeting room of the Municipal Building located at 627 Pinewald-Keswick Road, Bayville, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning this ordinance.



Karen Stallings, RMC
Township Clerk, Township of Berkeley
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