

ORDINANCE NO. 2062 *(Revised 09/03/2026)*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO AMEND LAUREL CITY CODE ARTICLE V. "CURFEW; PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY", SECTION 9-60 "DEFINITIONS"; SECTION 9-61 "UNLAWFUL CONDUCT", SECTION 9-62 "DEFENSES", SECTION 9-63 "ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES" AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, on November 28, 1994 the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland passed Ordinance No. 1167 establishing a juvenile curfew in the City of Laurel that became effective on January 3, 1995; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 1996 the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland passed Ordinance No. 1189 that became effective on August 1, 1996 amending and redesignating Laurel City Code Article IV "Curfew; Parental Responsibility", as Article V "Curfew; Parental Responsibility and redesignating certain section numbers; and

WHEREAS, a recent review of Article V indicates that revisions to the Laurel City Code sections are needed to clarify and update language regarding curfews and parental responsibility of juveniles in the City of Laurel; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the provisions of Chapter 9, Article V, of the Laurel City Code be and are hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE V. - CURFEW; PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sec. 9-60. - Definitions

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Minor. Any person ~~under the age of seventeen (17) years.~~ under the age of eighteen (18) years.

* * *

Sec. 9-61. - Unlawful conduct

The following conduct shall be unlawful, unless otherwise provided herein:

~~(1) No minor under the age of seventeen (17) years shall remain in or upon any public place or any establishment between the hours of 11:59 p.m. Friday and~~

~~5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:59 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.~~

- (2) ~~No minor between the ages of six (6) to sixteen (16) years, inclusive, shall remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless he or she has written proof from school authorities excusing him or her from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of a minor.~~
- (3) ~~No parent shall knowingly permit, nor by insufficient control shall allow, any minor under the age of seventeen (17) years to remain in or upon any public place or any establishment between the hours of 11:59 midnight Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:59 midnight Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.~~
- (4) ~~No parent shall knowingly permit, nor by insufficient control shall allow, any minor between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) years, inclusive, to remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless he or she has written proof from school authorities excusing him or her from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of a minor.~~
- (5) ~~No operator of an establishment or his or her agents or employees shall knowingly permit any minor under the age of seventeen (17) years to remain upon the premises of said establishment between the hours of 11:59 p.m. Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:59 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.~~
- (6) ~~No operator of an establishment or his or her agents or employees shall knowingly permit any minor between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) years, inclusive, to remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless he or she has written proof from school authorities excusing him or her from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of a minor.~~
- (1) No minor under the age of eighteen (18) years shall remain in or upon any public place or any establishment between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday,

or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.

- (2) No minor under the age of 18 years shall remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless they have written proof from school authorities excusing them from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of the minor.
- (3) No parent shall knowingly permit, nor by insufficient control shall allow, any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years to remain in or upon any public place or any establishment between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.
- (4) No parent shall knowingly permit any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years to remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless they have written proof from school authorities excusing them from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of the minor.
- (5) No operator of an establishment or their agents or employees shall knowingly permit any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years to remain upon the premises of said establishment between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, or between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day on any other day of the week.
- (6) No operator of an establishment or their agents or employees shall knowingly permit any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years, to remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during any school day unless they have written proof from school authorities excusing them from attendance at that particular time or unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of the minor.
- (7) The Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, shall have the authority to modify curfew hours in response to matters of public safety, pursuant to the exercise of emergency powers. Notice of any such modification shall be provided to the public through official City communication platforms, as is reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

Sec. 9-62. - Defenses.

(a) It shall be a defense to prosecution of any of the offenses set forth in ~~s~~Section 9-61 of this ~~a~~Article V if the minor was:

~~(1) Accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has responsibility for the care and custody of a minor; or~~

~~(2) On an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, without any detour or stop; or~~

~~(3) In a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel; or~~

~~(4) Engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop; or~~

~~(5) Involved in an emergency; or~~

~~(6) On the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence or abutting the residence of a next door neighbor if the neighbor did not complain to the police department about the minor's presence; or~~

~~(7) Attending a city event, or an official school, religious, or civic activity, or attending a recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the city or other governmental entity, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor, or going to or returning home from, without any detour or stop, a city event, or an official school, religious, or civic activity, or a recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the city or other governmental entity, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor;~~

~~(8) Married or had been married.~~

(1) Accompanied by their parent or legal guardian; or

(2) Returning home, by a direct route (without unnecessary detour or stop), within one (1) hour of the conclusion of a school activity, activity of a religious or voluntary association, or an event at a place of public entertainment (e.g., movie, play, or sporting event).

(3) At work or traveling directly to or from work and can provide proof of employment upon request.

(4) Is or had been married.

(b) It shall be a defense to prosecution of an operator of an establishment, pursuant to ~~s~~Sections 9-61~~(1) and (2)~~ of this ~~a~~Article, if the operator of the establishment, or the operator's employees or agents promptly notified the police department that a minor was present on the premises of the establishment during curfew hours and refused to leave.

Sec. 9-63. - Enforcement and pPenalties.

~~(a) Any minor who violates the provisions of subsection 9-61(a) or 9-61(b) of this article shall be subject to being cited for such violation pursuant to applicable statutes, regulations and procedures relating to charging juveniles for juvenile violations. If the minor is not charged with such violation, the officer shall issue a youth field contact report (J-2) documenting the minor's name, address, home telephone number, and age, and the name, address, and home telephone number of the minor's parent or parents. The minor shall thereupon be instructed to proceed immediately to his or her home, or to proceed directly to his or her school, if it is during school hours; or the police officer may transport the minor to the minor's school if it is during school hours; or the police officer may transport the minor to the minor's home or to the police station where the minor will be detained for the purpose of contacting a parent of the minor to pick up the minor. The police department shall promptly cause a written notice to be mailed or delivered to the parents of the minor advising of the violation, which notice shall include a copy of the youth field contact report. Such notice shall be mailed to a parent by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or by personal delivery. Such mailing or delivery may be shown by the records of the police department made in the regular course of its business.~~

~~(b) Any parent who shall violate any provision of sections 9-61(3) or 9-61(4) of this article after having received notice of a prior violation occurring within the preceding twelve (12) months, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor which shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) days, or both. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.~~

~~(c) Any operator of an establishment and any agents or employees of any operator, who shall violate the provisions of sections 9-61(5) or 9-61(6) of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor which shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) days, or both. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.~~

(a) Any minor found in violation of the provisions of this Article shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. First Offense: A civil fine of \$250.00 and 10 hours of community service.
2. Second Offense: A civil fine of \$500.00 and 25 hours of community service.
3. Third and Subsequent Offenses: A civil fine of \$1,000.00 and 40 hours of community service.

(b) Parents or legal guardians shall be held civilly liable for any damage(s) caused by their child(ren) in connection with a curfew violation, or for any costs incurred by the City of Laurel in managing the violation, up to \$10,000.00 per incident or occurrence.

In addition, parents or legal guardians of a minor who violate this Article shall be subject to escalating civil penalties as follows:

1. First Offense (by the minor): No fine.
2. Second Offense (by the same minor): A civil fine of \$250.00.
3. Third Offense (by the same minor): A civil fine of \$500.00.
4. Fourth and Subsequent Offenses (by the same minor): A civil fine of \$1,000.00 per occurrence.

(c) Any operator of an establishment and any agents or employees of any operator, who shall violate the provisions of ~~sSections 9-61 or 9-61(2)~~ of this ~~a~~Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor which shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), ~~or imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) days, or both.~~ Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that severability is intended throughout and within the provisions of this Ordinance. If any provision, including any exception, part, phrase, or term, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and the validity of this Ordinance in any and all other respects shall not be affected thereby.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor