

ORDINANCE NO. 2062

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.

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Sec. 9-61. - Unlawful conduct

* * *

~~(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.~~

(1) No operator of an establishment or ~~his or her~~ 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 11:5900 p.m. Friday and 5:00 a.m. Saturday, or between the hours of 11:5900 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 operator of an establishment or ~~his or her~~ their agents or employees shall knowingly permit any minor under ~~between~~ the ages of ~~six (6) and sixteen (16-18)~~ 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.

(3) 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.

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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;~~

1. When a juvenile or minor is accompanied by their parent or legal guardian; or
2. When the juvenile or minor is 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. When the juvenile or minor is at work or traveling directly to or from work and can provide proof of employment upon request.
- ~~(8) 4. When a juvenile is or had been Mmarried or had been married.~~

(b) It shall be a defense to prosecution of an operator of an establishment, pursuant to ~~sSections~~ Sections 9-61(1) and (2) of this ~~aArticle~~, 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 penalties.

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~~(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. Any juvenile 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.

(c) Parents or legal guardians shall be held civilly liable for any damages 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 juvenile who violates this article shall be subject to escalating civil penalties as follows:

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

(ed) Any operator of an establishment and any agents or employees of any operator, who shall violate the provisions of ~~s~~Sections 9-61(1) 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