



TOWN OF STRATFORD
MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK

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MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACT TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR LITTER
Ordinance Changes Enacted Tonight Increase Fines, Expand Definitions

STRATFORD- The Stratford Town Council passed ordinance changes this evening that increase fines for littering from \$100 to \$250 except in designated town parks where the fine will increase to \$350. It will also classify the unsolicited delivery of newsprint advertising circulars and similar items, often thrown onto resident's yards frequently ending up in streets, as litter. The new changes become effective thirty days from passage by the Council.

"We take pride in our community and have been investing in sustainable trash compacting containers to make trash maintenance easier and more efficient. Stratford's updated litter ordinances highlight the seriousness of tossing garbage onto our roadways, at our parks and beaches and throughout our neighborhoods," said **Mayor Hoydick**. "I was pleased to work with members of the Town Council to put together these changes that will help keep the town cleaner and greener. Trash not placed in proper receptacles is not only unsightly and unhealthy, but it costs taxpayer resources to clean and collect. The newsprint advertising circulars are environmentally irresponsible and have generated a significant amount of complaints from town residents who want to see their unwanted distribution stopped."

The new language in the Code expands the definition of litter to include the "placing, throwing or distribution of items, books, telephone books and commercial or non-commercial handbills onto property where the owner thereof has neither requested nor granted permission for such placing, throwing or distribution." This takes direct aim at newsprint advertising circulars and similar items that residents didn't ask for, but are thrown into their driveways, and often end up in the street.

"The types of circulars we are prohibiting tonight as litter are unwanted by town residents," said **Councilor Christopher Pia** (R-1), who recently testified before the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly in favor of similar legislation at the state level. "These papers remain uncollected in yards, driveways and roadsides, get waterlogged, clog drainage in roadways and get caught in sewer catch basins. The companies that distribute them claim you only need to call and take your name off their list and you won't receive them. However, many residents in my district have called repeatedly to stop their delivery and their pleas have gone unheeded. As a coastal Long Island Sound community, we have an especially high level of responsibility when it comes to such environmental issues. It was time to take action."

Provisions of the new Code changes also permit expanded enforcement capacity of the updated litter ordinances to additional town officials as designated by the Mayor.

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