

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD  
ORDINANCE NO. 3533**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK –  
A VILLAGE ORGANIZATION TO ADDRESS DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEEDS-RELATED ISSUES.**

Whereas, in 2008, Bergen County Director of Disability Services James Thebery suggested that the Village of Ridgewood form an “Access for All” committee to address issues important to people with disabilities; and

Whereas a meeting to organize and form such a committee was held in Village Hall in August 2008 and was attended by a large cross-section of our community; and

Whereas this committee – later named the Ridgewood Community Access Network (CAN) – has met monthly for almost 8 years and has met more frequently around certain events, and

Whereas the purpose of Ridgewood CAN has been two-fold: (1) to serve as a resource for Ridgewood families regarding disability-related issues; and (2) to serve as a platform for addressing disability-related issues; and

Whereas the work of Ridgewood CAN has been premised on the recognition that many people have special needs, but that all people have special gifts; and

Whereas Ridgewood CAN has led or been involved with several important initiatives, ranging from the train station renovation to the placement of an accessible ramp at Graydon Park to the facilitation of Ridgewood students into work/volunteer opportunities to the widely-recognized “Access Ridgewood” annual disability awareness weekend; and

Whereas several other Bergen County municipalities have formed their own “access for all” committees through resolution and/or ordinance; and

Whereas the members of Ridgewood CAN would like now to formalize their committee through ordinance;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood does hereby create a standing committee of the Council called the “Ridgewood Community Access Network (CAN)” –

1. Its purpose is two-fold: (1) to serve as a resource for Ridgewood families regarding disability-related issues; and (2) to serve as a platform for addressing disability-related issues; and
2. Its organization is as follows:

Chairperson: Appointed by the Village Council every two years.

Vice Chairperson[s]: Appointed by the Chairperson.

Council Liaison: Appointed by the Council every two years.

Staff Liaison: Selected by the Village Manager every two years.

Members: Open membership to anyone who wants to participate

The appointments of its Chairperson and Vice Chairperson[s] will occur every two years, beginning January 1, 2018. In the interim, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson[s] will be appointed in May 2016 by the Council and Chairperson, respectively. This will allow for proper planning for the annual "Access for Ridgewood" program, which happens early in the fall.

3. Its meeting schedule will be decided by the committee, but should include monthly meetings, which will be advertised on the Village website.

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FOR AFFIRMANCE: Councilmembers: Hauck, Knudsen, Pucciarelli,  
Sedon and Mayor Aronsohn

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Introduction Date: April 27, 2016

Adoption Date: May 11, 2016

Effective Date: May 31, 2016



Paul S. Aronsohn, Mayor

ATTEST:



Heather A. Mailander, Village Clerk