

VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

ORDINANCE # 3065

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE
VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN
VIOLATIONS FOR THE “CONSUMPTION AND/OR POSSESSION
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BY UNDERAGE PERSONS”**

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood are concerned with the extent and increase of alcohol usage by underage persons on private property in the Village; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the New Jersey legislature passed N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.2 which gives Municipalities the authority to adopt an ordinance making it unlawful for underage persons to consume or possess alcoholic beverages on private property without legal authority; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has reviewed the March 19, 2007 report of the Community Task Force/Municipal Alliance Committee, which report indicates the results of a survey of Ridgewood High School students acknowledging extensive and alarming alcohol usage and abuse by high school age students; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has concluded that the adoption of such Ordinance consistent with N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.2 will enure to the benefit, health, safety and welfare of the residents and school age children of the Village and the community in general; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood as follows:

Chapter:

Article:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

- A. Guardian: means a person who has qualified as a “guardian” of the underage person pursuant to a testamentary or court appointment.
- B. Relative: means the underage person’s mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle; sibling who is of 21 years of age or older or any other person related by blood or affinity.

SECTION 2: CONSUMPTION OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BY UNDERAGE PERSONS

It shall be unlawful for any underage person to knowingly consume or possess an alcoholic beverage on private property.

SECTION 3: EXCEPTIONS

The following is a list of exceptions to Section 1 above:

- A. Any underage person who possesses or consumes an alcoholic beverage(s) in connection with a religious observance, ceremony, or rite, or who possesses or consumes an alcoholic beverage in the presence of and with the permission of a parent, guardian or relative who has attained the legal age to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages;
- B. Any underage person who possesses an alcoholic beverage and is in course of performing employment duties for a person or entity who is licensed under Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated;
- C. Any underage person who possesses or consumes an alcoholic beverage within the confines of a private residence owned or resided in by the parent, guardian or relative of the underage person, said relative being of the age to legally possess or consume alcohol.

SECTION 4: VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Any person found guilty of violating the terms and provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of Two Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars for the first offense and Three Hundred Fifty (\$350.00) for the second or any subsequent offense. In addition to such fines, the Court may in its sole discretion suspend or postpone for up to six (6) months the driving privilege of said persons. The Court may in its sole discretion, require the performance of community service for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.