

PD Letterhead

June 17, 2020

New Haven Board of Alders
165 Church Street, 2nd Floor
New Haven CT 06510

Re: AMENDMENT OF NEW HAVEN GENERAL ORDINANCE ARTICLE VI, SECTION 29-131, ET SEQ. REGARDING POCKET BIKES, MINI BIKES, DIRT BIKES, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, ETC. TO ADD ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, AND INCREASE PENALTIES AS PERMITTED BY CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTIONS 14-390 & 14-390m

Honorable Board of Alders:

On behalf of the New Haven Department of Police Service, I submit a proposed amendment to New Haven General Ordinances Article VI, Section 29-131, et seq., commonly referred to as the "dirt bike ordinance." The improper use of unregistered dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles ("ATVs") on public streets has increased substantially throughout Connecticut during the last decade and the widespread illegal use of these vehicles in New Haven represents a growing health and safety hazard for residents and visitors.

In 2013 and 2016 the Connecticut General Assembly passed public acts 13-154, S.1 (2013) and 16-208, S.1 (2016), which enable municipalities to increase penalties for violations of local regulations governing the operation and use on public property of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. The Acts increase the maximum penalties to \$1,000 for a first violation, \$1,500 for a second violation, and \$2,000 for a third or subsequent violation. These Acts also permit municipalities with a population of 20,000 or more to enact ordinances to provide for the seizure and forfeiture of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles under certain circumstances. The maximum penalties under the existing general ordinance is \$99.

The proposed ordinance also requires dealers to post the New Haven dirt bike ordinance in a prominent location at their place of business, and it prescribes a penalty to any owner or employee of a gas station that sells gasoline for use in dirt bikes or ATVs. The new provisions in this proposed ordinance will permit the Department to better protect the safety of residents and visitors of New Haven by better regulating the use of dirt bikes and ATVs in town. Thank you for your consideration of the vital amendment to the General Ordinances.

Very Truly Yours,

Karl Jacobson
Assistant Chief of Police