

LOCAL LAW NO. __ of 2022

A Local Law known and cited as Prohibition on Release of Balloons and Sky Lanterns

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Ossining as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose and Intent. Although balloon and sky lantern releases are common ways to celebrate and/or memorialize people and/or occasions, there is considerable objective and scientific evidence that such activities are contrary to Town policy and law of not littering, protecting our environment and wildlife, and being good stewards of the Hudson River. Therefore the Town Board, in the interest of protecting the public health, safety and welfare, believes it is in the best interest of the Town to prohibit such releases.

SECTION 2. Town Code Chapter 112 (entitled “Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse”) is hereby amended to create Article IV entitled “Prohibition on Release of Balloons and Sky Lanterns”, which shall consist of the following:

Section 112-24. Prohibition on Release

- A. No person may release, cause to be released, or organize or participate in the release of a balloon or multiple balloons outdoors in the unincorporated Town of Ossining or on Town-owned property.
- B. No person may release, cause to be released, or organize or participate in the release of a sky lantern or multiple sky lanterns outdoors in the unincorporated Town of Ossining or on Town-owned property. For the purposes of this Article, “sky lantern” shall mean any device that is comprised of a paper, fabric or other material pulled over a frame with a small candle fuel cell or similar heat source within the frame.

Section 112-25. Exceptions

The following exceptions apply to the prohibitions set forth in Section 112-24:

- A. Balloon(s) and/or sky lantern(s) released for scientific or meteorological purposes, on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a government contract.
- B. Manned hot air balloon that is recovered after launching.
- C. Balloon(s) and/or sky lantern(s) released and to remain indoors.
- D. Accidental release of balloon(s) by a person 13 years of age or younger.

Section 112-26. Penalties for Offenses

Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be punished by a fine of \$250.

SECTION 4. Validity. The invalidity of any provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other portion of this Local Law which can be given effect without such invalid provision.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF
THE TOWN OF OSSINING