



Town of Ocean View, Delaware

PRESS RELEASE

Ocean View Responds to Concerns Raised by ACLU for Ordinance Establishing Guidelines and Process to Respond to First Amendment Assembly Requests

Ocean View, DE, August 22, 2025: The Town of Ocean View has reviewed a letter presented this week by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) addressing Ordinance No. 405 with the Town Solicitor and expresses its appreciation for the outreach and opinions shared in connection therewith. Ordinance 405 was enacted to establish a permitting process for First Amendment assemblies on Town owned property in order to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the community. The Ordinance was adopted in July after moving through a full public process, including introduction, and two public hearings at which no aspect of the Ordinance was contested by anyone, including the ACLU.

Notwithstanding the public process already conducted, “the item will be placed on the September Council meeting agenda for consideration of amendment or repeal” said Mayor John Reddington “to ensure no one’s First Amendment rights are inadvertently impacted by our ordinance”. Further, “we’ve begun a legal review of the points raised by the ACLU” said Town Manager Carol Houck, “so that regardless of whether its repealed and reintroduced or addressed by amendment, we can craft a better ordinance”.

It's currently our understanding that the process to repeal an ordinance should follow the same path of adopting one, including Introduction, First and Second reading with 2 Public Hearings, and a possible vote. If a repeal ordinance is introduced in September, it would reach Second Reading, Public Hearing and possible vote in November.

END

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