



**Town of Ocean View, Delaware**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ocean View Hires Special Legal Counsel to Assist in Evaluating its  
First Amendment Assembly Ordinance**

**Ocean View, DE, September 15 , 2025:** The Town of Ocean View, has committed to a thorough review of its existing first amendment assembly ordinance including the hiring of special counsel, Connolly Gallagher LLP, to guide the effort. Max Walton, Partner, will lead this engagement on behalf of the Town.

“Ordinance No. 405, adopted in July after two public hearings, received no feedback from the public. However, outreach in August by the ACLU Delaware prompted the Town to commit to working with counsel to consider the concerns raised and for the benefit of our entire community”, said Mayor John Reddington. Further he stated, “we expect to be in a position to share a responsive path forward in October.”

“While some hoped an immediate repeal would take place, doing so was deemed inadvisable by the Town Solicitor, recommending we follow the doctrine of ‘legislative equivalency’ if it’s determined that a repeal of the ordinance is appropriate, said Town Manager Carol Houck. Also noting that, “our interest in a comprehensive review called for a pause to ensure we’re taking a thoughtful approach.

At the Town Council meeting of September 9<sup>th</sup>, attendees were informed that to date, the existing ordinance had not yet been acted upon as there have been no requests to assemble on Town property. It was also noted that in the interim any requests received would be discussed on a case-by-case basis, with the concerns raised and under review in mind. Preparedness, coordination with prior approved activities, impact to budget and the safety and wellbeing of all who gather on Town property are noted to be the prime goals of establishing the ordinance.

END

Carol Houck  
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