

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-255

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE VINELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING BLUE LIGHTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 39:3-54.7 an active volunteer in good standing with a first responder municipal organization to apply for a courtesy emergency warning light permit to allow said volunteer to display such light while rendering service within a municipality subject to approval first by the Mayor of the City and then by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Insurance Fund has recommended that municipalities properly vet the candidate for such equipment to assure the candidate is properly qualified; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Fire and the Chief of the Fire Department wish to promulgate rules to assure that a candidate for such an important piece of equipment meets the standards necessary to adequately protect the City from liability from misuse of such equipment; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 56, Section 56-5B of the Code of the City of Vineland, rules and regulations to govern the proper operation of the City of Vineland Fire Department the Director of the Fire Department shall prepare such rules and submit the same to City council for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Director has recommended that Council approve a Blue Light policy to govern the proper type, display and use of Blue Lights by volunteers in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:54 et seq., said policy is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds it is in the best interest of the City to approve a Blue Light Policy as recommended by the Director as attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Vineland that the Blue Light Policy promulgated by the Director of Fire with input from the Chief of the Department as attached hereto are hereby approved in accordance with Chapter 56, Section 56-5B of the Code of the City of Vineland.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

**VINELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
RULES & REGULATIONS
ARTICLE 3 – Section 4**

PERSONAL MOTOR VEHICLE
COURTESY EMERGENCY WARNING LIGHT POLICY

Any active member in good standing of the Vineland Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management or other first aid squad recognized by and providing service to the City may apply for a permit or renewal permit for a courtesy emergency warning light, such as a Blue Fire Light, permitted by N.J.S.A. 39:3-54 et seq. and N.J.A.C.13:24 et seq. to be operated solely while the vehicle is being used in answering an emergency call. Such emergency warning lights shall be of a design and placed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-54.9 and .10. Copies are available upon request. Applications shall be made to the Mayor for signature after recommendations from the applicant's Station Chief, Chief of the Department, President of the Volunteer Firefighters' Association of Vineland (VFAOV) and Director of Fire following a review of the applicant's yearly Motor Vehicle Driver abstract obtained no earlier than the date of application and shall sign they are familiar with the potential liability and support the application for permit. Abstracts are provided by the City at no cost to the applicant. The Application shall be referred to the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for final determination and no affirmative recommendation shall be issued by the Director and/or Chief unless:

- a) the applicant is in good standing with the first responder organization within which he/she is a member;
- b) the Driver's Abstract reveals no **serious** violations thereon within the past 5 years for which motor vehicle points have been assigned by the NJMVC for violations of motor vehicle laws **such as offenses** related to the use or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs while operating a motor vehicle, violations of Chapter 6b of Title 39 of the Statutes of the State of New Jersey requiring insurance on motor vehicles and/or Article 15 of the Statutes of the State of New Jersey entitled Accidents and Reports;
- c) the applicant has not been found to have abused the use of said emergency lights which shall be defined as any determination by any court, municipality or first responder organization in any jurisdiction that the applicant has violated any section or subsection of N.J.S.A. 39:54 et seq. or N.J.A.C. 13:24 et seq. within the past 5 years.
- d) execution of acknowledgement of obligations for the use of emergency warning lights on a form approved by the Director.

The issuance of an Identification Card by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and countersigned by the Mayor as set forth herein shall permit the holder to install and operate such emergency warning lights only in accordance with the aforementioned laws of the State of New Jersey. Such Identification Card must be in the possession of the member at all times the lights are operated. Should the Director and/or Chief of the Department have cause to believe the member no longer meets the qualifications set forth herein above, they may require a copy of an updated Drivers Abstract and/or record from other jurisdictions of improper activity regarding the use of emergency warning lights. Failure to do so shall cause the suspension of such emergency warning light permit until proper documentation as requested is submitted.

Any report of abuse of this policy as defined herein by any member or citizen, shall be cause for an immediate temporary suspension of such privileges pending final determination by a court, municipality or first responder organization in any jurisdiction and if such report of abuse is sustained, the applicant shall forthwith have his/her courtesy emergency light permit suspended for a period of 3 years. All complaints are to be investigated and adjudicated by the City's Legal Investigator in a reasonably prompt manner. A finding by any court, municipality or first responder organization in any jurisdiction that the member operated any emergency lights during a period of courtesy light suspension shall be cause for immediate suspension from the Fire Department, OEM or first aid squad pending completion of a formal investigation. Notice of such suspension shall be given to the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicles Commission. Any subsequent offense of the same shall cause a revocation of such privileges permanently.