

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADDING CHAPTER 22, RECOGNIZING THE BARNEGAT LIGHT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AS THE OFFICIAL FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATION FOR THE BOROUGH OF BARNEGAT LIGHT

Chapter 22
FIRE COMPANY

§ 22-1. Recognition of Official Firefighting Organization.

The Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 hereinafter shall be referred to as BLVFC, duly incorporated fire company, is hereby recognized as the official firefighting organization for the Borough of Barnegat Light, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey.

§ 22-2. Membership Qualifications.

No person shall become a member of the BLVFC unless such person:

- A. Is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- B. Is lawfully present within the United States; and
- C. Is physically fit to perform the duties of a firefighter, as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New Jersey following a physical examination conducted for that purpose.

§ 22-3. Application for Membership.

Every person seeking membership in the Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 shall submit a written application to the Company containing:

- A. Date and place of birth; and
- B. If naturalized, the date and place of naturalization and current place of residence.

§ 22-4. Criminal History and Background Checks.

A. Criminal History Record Check Required.

Every applicant for membership in the BLVFC shall submit all documentation and information necessary for the completion of a criminal record background check and motor vehicle record check.

B. Disqualifying Criminal Convictions. An applicant shall be ineligible for membership if the criminal history record background check reveals a conviction for any of the following:

(1) In the State of New Jersey:

- (a) Crimes or disorderly persons offenses involving danger to the person, including but not limited to offenses set forth in N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 et seq., 2C:12-1 et seq., 2C:13-1 et seq., 2C:14-1 et seq., and 2C:15-1 et seq.;
- (b) Crimes or disorderly persons offenses against the family, children, or incompetent persons, including but not limited to offenses set forth in N.J.S.A. 2C:24-1 et seq. and 2C:25-17 et seq.;
- (c) Any crime or offense resulting in forfeiture of public office, position, or employment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:51-2;
- (d) Any theft offense under Chapter 20 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;
- (e) Any offense involving a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog under Chapter 35 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, except N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10(a)(4), occurring within the preceding five (5) years; or
- (f) Any crime of the fourth degree or higher occurring within the preceding ten (10) years.

(2) Out-of-State Convictions.

Any conviction in another state or jurisdiction for conduct which, if committed in New Jersey, would constitute a crime or disorderly persons offense described in this section.

C. Other Criminal Offenses.

An applicant shall be ineligible for membership if the BLVFC determines that any criminal conviction negatively impacts the health, safety, or welfare of the Company or the residents of the Borough.

D. Removal Upon Conviction.

Any member convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense that would constitute a disqualifying offense under this section shall be removed from membership upon conviction.

E. Motor Vehicle Driver History Abstract. Restrictions on Operation of Fire Company Vehicles. No individual shall be authorized to operate Fire Company vehicles if the individual's motor vehicle driver history abstract reveals: More than three (3) moving violations within the preceding twenty-four (24) months; or conviction within the preceding five (5) years of any of the following offenses:

- (a) Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) or Driving Under the Influence (DUI);
- (b) Leaving the scene of an accident.
- (c) Reckless driving.
- (d) Homicide or assault by auto; or
- (e) Eluding a law enforcement officer.

F. Use of Information.

Information obtained pursuant to this section shall be used solely for lawful purposes and in accordance with the Driver's Privacy Protection Act.

G. Waiver. The Executive Board of the BLVFC may waive any provision of this section upon a sufficient showing of rehabilitation, remoteness of the offense, or other evidence demonstrating that the applicant or member does not present a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the Company or the residents of the Borough.

§ 22-5. Election to Membership.

Applicants may be elected to membership in the BLVFC upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

§ 22-6. Records and Reports of Attendance.

An accurate record of attendance shall be maintained by an officer of the BLVFC and reported to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Barnegat Light for review and approval by the Governing Body. Attendance records shall be maintained in accordance with Chapter 23, Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP).

§ 22-7. Removal from Membership.

A. Any member of the BLVFC may be removed for cause upon notice and by a majority vote of the members in good standing.

B. Violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute sufficient cause for removal from membership.

§ 22-8. Junior Firefighters Auxiliary.

A. Establishment.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-98, there is hereby established a Junior Firefighters Auxiliary for the Borough of Barnegat Light Volunteer Fire Company.

B. Rules and Regulations.

The Junior Firefighters Auxiliary shall operate in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-98 and such rules and regulations as may be adopted and amended from time to time consistent with state law.

§ 22-9. Fire Company Bylaws.

All matters and requirements not specifically addressed in this chapter shall be governed by the bylaws of the BLVFC, as adopted and amended from time to time, provided that such bylaws are not inconsistent with applicable law or the provisions of this chapter.

INTRODUCTION:

Passage on First Reading: Date: June 10, 2026

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark						
Reynolds						
Foley						
Gutowski						
Saburn						
Mescolotto						

Attest:

BRENDA L. KUHN, Municipal Clerk

ADOPTION:

Final Passage: Date: July 8, 2026

Wellington	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Spark						
Reynolds						
Foley						
Gutowski						
Saburn						
Mescolotto						

Attest:

BRENDA L. KUHN, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

ED WELLINGTON, Mayor

Attest:

BRENDA L. KUHN, Municipal Clerk