



ORDINANCE NO _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 65, OCEAN BEACH USE AND ACTIVITIES, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH, DELAWARE TO REVISE THE TIMES THAT DOGS ARE PERMITTED ON THE BEACH.

WHEREAS, the character of the Town of Dewey Beach is that of a “dog-friendly destination,” which has increased the number of visitors seeking an ocean beach that they may access with their dog; and

WHEREAS, the current legislation limits beach access for visitors and their dogs during the entire summer season, including mid-May through mid-September when weather conditions are often most favorable; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners endeavor to expand the opportunity for dogs and their owners to enjoy the beach, while also ensuring their presence does not create a hindrance for Beach Patrol operations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach, Sussex County, Delaware, in session met, as follows:

Section 1. Amend Section 65-3 of the Code of Ordinances as depicted by highlighted insertions, strikeouts, and substitutions depicted below:

§ 65-3 Animals on beach.

No person shall permit a dog or other animal to be on the ocean beach ~~between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. during the summer season.~~ **while lifeguards are on active duty.**

Section 2. If any provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed or held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever, then such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance which may be given effect without such invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by a majority vote of the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach.

Adopted by at least a majority of the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach on this 15th day of December, 2023.

SYNOPSIS

This Act removes the time and date specifications regarding the prohibition of dogs on the beach, alternatively prohibiting dogs on the beach only when lifeguards are on active duty.

Mayor, William Stevens

Town Manager, Bill Zolper