

ORDINANCE (ID # 7675)

Ordinance No. 10-2023 AMENDING ARTICLE XXIX OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK ABOLISHING THE MUNICIPAL ETHICS BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck that Ordinance #10-2023 pass upon second and final reading and that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law and to provide the appropriate notices in accordance with law.

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HISTORY:

02/14/23	Township Council	TABLED	Next: 03/14/23
03/14/23	Township Council	INTRODUCED	

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

- 1) Hildy Dillon - voiced opposition to this ordinance; opined more dialogue should take place with the public prior to considering this ordinance.
- 2) Charles Powers - opined that the Local ethics board should remain.
- 3) Tom Abbott - voiced support for abolishing the local ethics board, and went on to explain why
- 4) Michael Klatsky - voiced support for abolishing the local ethics board

Councilwoman Goldberg spoke on the legislation supporting local ethics boards, and opined that the State's Ethics Board is fully able to impartially handle ethics complaints. Councilwoman Goldberg spoke on different reasons and history that are causing her to vote yes on this ordinance. She invited anyone who may wish to understand her vote more to reach out to her.

Deputy Mayor Gee confirmed that an ethics complaint was filed on her anonymously, so she will be abstaining. She also explained if she did not have this conflict, she would likely table.

Councilwoman Orgen reiterated Councilwoman Goldberg's sentiments. Councilwoman Orgen opined that the ethics complaints process in Teaneck currently has been hijacked by politics, and the State will be able to provide the impartial review needed to make an unbiased determination.

Councilwoman Belcher confirmed she also received an ethics complaint filed anonymously, and plans to abstain from the vote. She detailed that she would have voted yes if she was able.

Deputy mayor Schwartz detailed he has been in this conversation for a long time, and is looking forward to the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Hillary Goldberg, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Mark J. Schwartz, Councilman
AYES:	Mark J. Schwartz, Karen Orgen, Michael S Pagan, Hillary Goldberg
ABSTAIN:	Denise Belcher, Danielle Gee
ABSENT:	Elie Y. Katz

TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

ORDINANCE NO. 10-2023 AMENDING ARTICLE XXIX OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK ABOLISHING THE MUNICIPAL ETHICS BOARD BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK THAT ORDINANCE #10-2023 PASS UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND THAT THE TOWNSHIP CLERK IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO ADVERTISE THE SAME ACCORDING TO LAW AND TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE NOTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

WHEREAS, the Local Government Ethics Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.1 et seq.) establishes a State-wide Code of Ethics for local governments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid statute designates that Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as the body which shall have jurisdiction to govern and guide the conduct of local government officers and employees regarding violations of the Local Government Ethics Law; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Ethics Law authorizes municipalities to establish local municipal ethics boards to exercise the jurisdiction to establish local codes of ethics, either identical to the provisions of the State-wide Code of Ethics or more restrictive, and to administer and enforce the local code of ethics; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing authority, the Township of Teaneck has heretofore established a Municipal Ethics Board, codified as Article XXIX of Chapter 2 of the Code of the Township of Teaneck and has promulgated a local code of ethics found in Appendix II of Chapter 2 of the Code of the Township of Teaneck; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities in New Jersey have opted not to establish local municipal ethics boards but to rely on the Local Finance Board to enforce and administer the State-wide Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Teaneck's Municipal Ethics Board has not fully functioned for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that it would be more administratively efficient to rely on the Local Finance Board to enforce and administer the State-wide Code of Ethics and abolish the Municipal Ethics Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck, Bergen County, New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Article XXIX, "Municipal Ethics Board," of Chapter 2, "Charter/Administrative Code," of the Code of the Township of Teaneck, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

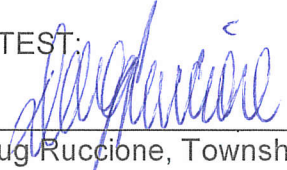
SECTION 2. Appendix II, "Code of Ethics," of Chapter 2, "Charter/Administrative Code," of the Code of the Township of Teaneck, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any sentence, section, clause or other portion of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or repeal the remainder of this ordinance.

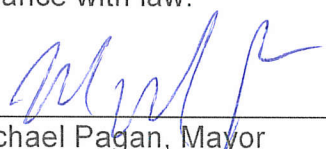
SECTION 4. Inconsistency. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days following adoption and publication in accordance with law.

ATTEST:



Doug Ruccione, Township Clerk



Michael Pagan, Mayor

Introduced: March 14, 2023

Adopted: April 4, 2023