

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 19-13

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the Prohibition of the Release of Non-Biodegradable Balloons within Queen Anne's County as set forth herein;

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County find that the release into the atmosphere of large numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, agricultural industry, wildlife and marine animals;

FOR THE PURPOSE of protecting the waters, animals and overall environment of Queen Anne's County from the toxic impact of non-biodegradable balloons that are released within Queen Anne's County by criminalizing the willing release of non-biodegradable balloons within Queen Anne's County.

BY ADOPTING new sections 13-14 through 13-16 of a new Article IV of Chapter 13 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that the intentional release of non-biodegradable or non-photodegradable balloons in Queen Anne's County is hereby prohibited through the enactment of new sections 13-14 through 13-16 of a new Article IV entitled "Release of Balloons" of Chapter 13 of the Code of Public Local Laws be and is hereby ADOPTED to read as follows:

Article IV Release of Balloons

§13-14 Definitions.

Balloon

A. A nonporous bag of tough light material, generally latex or mylar, whether filled or unfilled.

Person

A. Any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other organization or group, however organized.

§13-15. Release of Balloons Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to knowingly and intentionally release, organize the release of or intentionally cause to be released into the atmosphere of Queen Anne's County any Balloon unless such Balloon is either biodegradable or photodegradable.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) Balloon(s) released by or on behalf of any agency of the State of Maryland, or the United States or pursuant to a contract with the State of Maryland, the United States, or any other state, territory or government for scientific or meteorological purposes; (ii) hot air Balloon(s) that are recovered after launch; or (iii) the negligent and unintentional release of any Balloon(s).

§13-16. Violations and Penalties

Any person who violates this Article shall be guilty of a civil infraction and subject to a fine of not more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

SECTION II

BEITFURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect on the forty sixth (46th) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Corchiarino

DATE: July 9, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: August 13, 2019 @ 6:10 pm

VOTE: 5 Yea 0 Nay

DATE OF ADOPTION: August 27, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 12, 2019