

ORDINANCE NO. 764

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING AND RESTATING ROLLING HILLS ESTATES MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10.44 REGARDING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, AND OTHER MOTORIZED DEVICES AND CHAPTER 10.46 REGARDING THE REGULATION OF WHEELED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN PATHS AND TRAILS

The City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings. The City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates finds as follows:

A. Rolling Hills Estates Municipal Code ("RHEMC") Chapter 10.44 provides regulations concerning bicycles in accordance with California Vehicle Code section 21206, but such regulations have not been updated for several decades and are not consistent with current City of Rolling Hills Estates ("City") practices and public safety needs.

B. RHEMC Chapter 10.46 regulates wheeled devices on equestrian paths and trails.

C. Electric or motorized bicycles and other similar devices (collectively, "motorized devices") have become more popular within the City. However, the City does not have any current regulations that specifically address the use of motorized devices on City streets or paved paths.

D. The California Vehicle Code, including sections 21206 and 21207.5, authorizes a city to regulate bicycles and motorized devices, including prohibiting the use of motorized devices on equestrian trails or other recreational trails within its jurisdiction, provided that such regulations are not in conflict with state law.

E. The City desires to update Chapter 10.44 to amend the existing bicycle regulations by removing references to licensing procedures and fees that are no longer imposed by the City, restate existing bicycle-related regulations, and add new regulations concerning the use of motorized devices.

F. The City also desires to update Chapter 10.46 to provided limited exceptions to the use of wheeled vehicles or motorized devices on designated public equestrian paths and trails.

SECTION 2. Environmental Findings. The City Council exercises its independent judgment and finds that the enactment of this Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") under the State CEQA Guidelines (Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations beginning at Section 15000), specifically: Section 15060(c)(2), because the proposed ordinance will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and Section 15061(b)(3), because the proposed Ordinance is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the regulations set forth in this Ordinance address bicycle, motorized device and wheeled vehicle regulations, violations, and enforcement actions, and such activities are also exempt under Guidelines section 15321 as enforcement actions by regulatory agencies. As such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the enactment of this ordinance may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from CEQA.

SECTION 3. Amendment and Restatement of RHEMC Chapter 10.44. Chapter 10.44 of the RHEMC is amended and restated as follows:

"Chapter 10.44 – BICYCLES, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTORIZED BICYCLES, AND OTHER MOTORIZED DEVICES

Sections:

10.44.010 – Definitions.

10.44.020 – Bicycle use prohibitions.

10.44.030 – Electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, and other motorized device use

prohibitions.

10.44.040 – Electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, and other motorized device regulations.

10.44.010 - Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this chapter:

“Bicycle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 231, and includes a device upon which any person may ride, propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain, or gears, and having one or more wheels.

“Electric bicycle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 312.5, and includes any bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

“Motorized bicycle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 406, and includes any two-wheeled or three-wheeled powered device that produces less than 4 gross brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on level ground.

“Motorized device” includes, but is not limited to, electric bicycles, motorized tricycles or quadricycles, motorized bicycles or mopeds, powered unicycles, people movers, hover boards, and scooters. Motorized device does not include a motor vehicle or OPDMD.

“Motor vehicle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 415.

“Motorized tricycle or motorized quadricycle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 407.

“OPDMD” means “other power-driven mobility device” such as motorized wheelchairs, tricycles, or quadricycles operated by a physically disabled person as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 and following).

“Paved path” means a city-owned pathway that is paved and primarily intended for pedestrian and bicycle usage, but may also be used by motorized devices subject to the regulations of this chapter.

“Powered unicycle” means a powered one-wheeled vehicle, either self-propelled or providing partial or full pedaling assistance.

“Vehicle” is as defined in California Vehicle Code section 670.

10.44.020 - Bicycle use prohibitions.

- A. In accordance with Section 10.20.120 of this code, no person may operate, ride, propel or coast any bicycle across or upon any public street, alley or way, or upon any private property open to use of the public for which adequate notice is given.
- B. In accordance with Section 10.46.010 of this code, no person may operate, ride, propel, push or pull any bicycle on trails or paths dedicated or designated for equestrian use, except where necessary to cross such equestrian trail or path where it intersects any designated bicycle path or public street.
- C. In accordance with Section 12.24.020(G) of this code, no person may ride bicycles in public parks on a surface other than the roadway used for entering and exiting the park, including the parking lot.

10.44.030 – Electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, and other motorized device use prohibitions.

- A. No person may operate, ride, propel, push, or pull, any motorized device in any location where bicycles are also prohibited, including the areas set forth in Section 10.44.020(A) and (C) of this code.
- B. Except as expressly provided in Chapter 10.46 of this code, no person may operate, ride, propel, push or pull any motorized device on trails or paths dedicated or designated for equestrian use other than where necessary to cross such equestrian trail or path where it intersects any paved path or public street.

10.44.040 – Electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, and other motorized device regulations.

Any person riding or operating an electric bicycle, motorized bicycle, or other motorized device on a city street or paved path must comply with all of the following regulations:

- A. No person may ride more than two abreast except on a paved path or part of a roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- B. No person may cling or attach themselves to any other moving vehicle or persons in any other moving vehicle.
- C. No person may transport another person upon the motorized device unless such passenger is seated upon a separate seat attached to the motorized device. If the passenger is four years of age or younger, or weighs 40 pounds or less, the seat must have adequate provision for retaining the passenger in place and for protecting the passenger from the moving parts of the bicycle or motorized device.
- D. No person may tow any other vehicle.
- E. No person may participate in any race or speed contest, unless expressly permitted by the city.
- F. No person may perform or attempt to perform any acrobatic or stunt riding.
- G. No person may park any motorized device against windows or street signage or on a sidewalk such that the motorized device obstructs sidewalk accessibility or passage, or in such manner as to constitute a hazard to pedestrians, traffic, or property.
- H. No person may operate a motorized device faster than is reasonable and proper, having due regard for weather, visibility, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and the surface and width of the road or paved path, and in no event at a speed that endangers the safety of any person or property.
- I. Operators of motorized devices must yield to pedestrians at all times.

10.44.050 - Violation.

A violation of this chapter may be punished as an infraction or by administrative citation pursuant to Chapter 1.24 and Chapter 1.25 of this code; provided, however, that a violation of Section 10.44.040 may only be punished by administrative citation pursuant to Chapter 1.25 of this code.”

SECTION 4. Amendment and Restatement of RHEMC Chapter 10.46. Chapter 10.46 of the RHEMC is amended and restated as follows:

“Chapter 10.46 – REGULATION OF WHEELED VEHICLES AND DEVICES ON EQUESTRIAN TRAILS AND PATHS

10.46.010 - Non-Horse drawn wheeled vehicles and devices prohibited on equestrian trails and paths.

- A. No person may operate, ride, propel, push or pull any bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard, stroller, wagon, or other non-horse drawn wheeled vehicle or device, including any motorized device (as defined in Chapter 10.44), on trails or paths dedicated or designated for equestrian use, except as provided in subsection (B) and (C).
- B. A property owner or resident whose property is directly adjacent to a trail or path dedicated or designated for equestrian use may operate a non-horse drawn wheeled vehicle or device, including a motorized device, on trails or paths dedicated or designated for equestrian use, for the limited purposes of delivering or removing horse keeping equipment, feed, manure, or supplies to or from a barn or other horse keeping area at the rear or side of such property or performing other equestrian-related activities or services.
- C. The restrictions in subsection (A) do not apply to a property owner or resident, or their

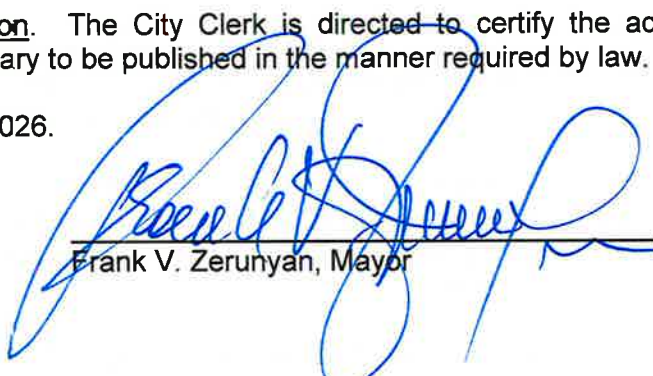
respective contractors or agents, for the limited purposes of delivering equipment or supplies necessary to perform construction or repairs at the side or rear of such property where such area is otherwise not accessible through the front or side of the property; provided, however, that if a building permit is required for such work, the use of an equestrian trail or path for such deliveries must be disclosed to the community development department and public works department at the time of permit application and will be subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the respective departments. The applicable owner or resident will be responsible for ensuring that the equestrian trail or path is free of any litter, debris or damage resulting from the use of the trail or path for the construction or repair work."

SECTION 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6. Summary. The City Council determines that it is not feasible to prepare a fair and adequate summary of the proposed ordinance and orders that a display advertisement of at least one-quarter of a page be published in accordance with Government Code section 36933(c). The approved display summary of this ordinance is attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 7. Publication. The City Clerk is directed to certify the adoption of this ordinance and cause the summary to be published in the manner required by law.

ADOPTED on September 22, 2026.


Frank V. Zerunyan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lauren Pettit, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Donald M. Davis, City Attorney

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance No. 764 was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates at a regular meeting held on September 22, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: BROWN SCHACHTER, HUFF, SCHMITZ, ZERUNYAN

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: STEGURA


Lauren Pettit, City Clerk