

City of North Tonawanda

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COMMON COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA

May 7, 2026

The following meeting has been scheduled for TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026:

6:30 PM Police Chief Glass

**Re: Update Chapter 18 in the North Tonawanda
City Code**

Alderman Lavey

Re: Volunteer Fire Companies

- **Gabrielle Richards**

Re: Updating the North Tonawanda City Codes

- **Common Council**

Re: General Discussion

Respectfully submitted,



**Donna L. Braun
City Clerk-Treasurer**



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-5491

TELEPHONE:
(716) 692-4111
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(716) 692-4321

April 27, 2026

Mayor Austin Tylec and
The North Tonawanda Common Council
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

MAY 19 2026

Dear Honorable Body,

I am respectfully submitting for your consideration a proposed local law to repeal the current provisions of Chapter 18 of the City Code and replace them with updated regulations addressing the use of bicycles, electric bicycles, scooters, and similar devices in areas designated for City-sponsored events.

The existing Chapter 18 provisions, originally adopted in 1947, primarily address bicycle licensing and registration requirements, which are no longer practical or enforced in modern policing practices. As such, the current code does not provide the police department with an effective means to address safety concerns that arise during large public gatherings.

In recent years, the City has experienced increased attendance at public events, including markets, festivals, concerts, and similar gatherings held on City property. These events create densely populated pedestrian environments where the operation of bicycles, e-bikes, and scooters presents a safety risk due to congestion, limited maneuverability, and the potential for collisions.

The proposed local law establishes a clear and enforceable prohibition on the operation of such devices within designated City-sponsored event areas during event hours. Importantly, the law is intentionally structured to:

- Apply broadly to all City-sponsored events without naming specific events, allowing flexibility as events change from year to year.
- Exclude private events unless they are formally designated and conducted by the City.
- Provide reasonable exceptions for emergency personnel, City staff, and individuals utilizing mobility assistance devices.
- Give officers a clear enforcement standard to ensure pedestrian safety.

This update will provide the necessary legal framework to enhance public safety while maintaining flexibility for City operations and event planning.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. I am available to answer any questions or provide further clarification as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Glass'.

Keith Glass
Chief of Police
North Tonawanda Police Department

2026 MAY 4 PM2:20
NORTH TONAWANDA NY

Chapter 18 (Bicycles, E-Bikes, and Scooters)
(Repeal and Replace)

§ 18-1. Legislative Intent and Purpose.

The Common Council of the City of North Tonawanda finds that the operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, scooters, and similar devices in areas designated for City-sponsored public gatherings creates congestion and safety hazards for pedestrians.

The purpose of this chapter is to promote the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during such gatherings.

§ 18-2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

- Bicycle – Every two or three-wheeled device upon which a person or persons may ride, propelled by human power through a belt, a chain or gears, with such wheels in a tandem or tricycle, except that it shall not include such a device having solid tires and intended for use only on a sidewalk by pre-teenage children.
- Electric Bicycle (E-Bike) – A bicycle which is no more than thirty-six inches wide and has an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts, equipped with operable pedals, meeting the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R. Part 1512.1 et seq. and meeting the requirements of one of the following three classes:
 - “Class one bicycle with electric assist.” A bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that provides assistance only when the person operating such bicycle is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.
 - “Class two bicycle with electric assist.” A bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.
 - “Class three bicycle with electric assist.” Solely within a city having a population of one million or more, a bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-five miles per hour.
- Scooter – Any wheeled device, including electric scooters, designed for standing or seated operation, powered by human or electric means.
- Electric Scooter - Every device weighing less than one hundred pounds that (a) has handlebars, a floorboard or a seat that can be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor, (b) can be powered by the electric motor and/or human power, and (c) has a maximum speed of no more than twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.
- City-Sponsored Event Area – Any public street, park, sidewalk, or other City-owned or controlled property that has been officially designated, permitted, or authorized by the City of North Tonawanda for a public event, gathering, market, festival, concert, or similar activity organized, sponsored, or conducted by the City.
- Event Hours – The period of time during which a City-sponsored event area is open to the public, including any time designated for setup, operation, or breakdown as determined by the City.

§ 18-3. Prohibited Conduct.

No person shall operate, ride, or otherwise use any bicycle, electric bicycle, scooter, or electric scooter within a City-sponsored event area during event hours.

§ 18-4. Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Law enforcement officers, fire personnel, or emergency responders acting in the performance of their official duties.
2. City employees or authorized personnel performing official work within the designated area.
3. Individuals using mobility assistance devices, including wheelchairs or other devices required for accessibility in compliance with applicable law.

§ 18-5. Enforcement and Penalties.

A violation of this section shall constitute an offense punishable as follows:

- A fine not to exceed \$100 for a first offense;
- A fine not to exceed \$250 for a second offense;
- A fine not to exceed \$500 for subsequent offenses.

In addition to any fine imposed, a police officer may direct the immediate removal of the prohibited device from the City-sponsored event area.

§ 18-6. Applicability.

This chapter shall apply only to events that are organized, sponsored, or officially authorized by the City of North Tonawanda, and shall not apply to private events held within the City unless such events are conducted on City property and formally designated as a City-sponsored event area.

§ 18-7. Repealer.

All prior provisions of Chapter 18, including outdated bicycle licensing requirements originally adopted in 1947, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

§ 18-8. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this chapter shall be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect the remainder thereof.

§ 18-9. Effective Date.

This chapter shall become effective immediately upon passage thereof.

From the Desk of
JOSEPH E. LAVEY, JR.
ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE
North Tonawanda Common Council

4/15/2026

Donna,

I would like to request that an item be added to the May 12, 2026, workshop agenda.

In light of recent discussions regarding the future of our city's fire department, particularly the ongoing decline in volunteer firefighters, I am requesting that Fire Chief Orlowski, along with any appropriate members of his department, attend to speak on several key topics. These include the restructuring of volunteer contracts, potential departmental restructuring, and the consideration of adding four additional career firefighters.

At present, the city has only 17 volunteer firefighters, with just 7 interior certified. Given the steady decline in volunteer numbers over the past three decades, I believe we are reaching a point where the current combination department model may no longer be sustainable.

With more households requiring dual incomes, increasing family obligations, and the general pace of modern life, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a reliable volunteer fire service within our city.

I have served nearly 27 years with the NTFD and have been actively involved in efforts to strengthen and rebuild the volunteer ranks. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, the situation continues to worsen.

Currently, the city has six volunteer fire companies. As of the date of this letter, staffing levels are as follows:

Columbia Hook and Ladder: 2
Active Hose: 0
Live Hose: 0
Rescue: 0
Gratwick: 2
Sweeney Hose: 13

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph Lavey, Jr
Alderman – AT - Large

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