

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE  
ORDINANCE NO. 22-17**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, CHAPTER 33, ENTITLED 'FIRE DEPARTMENT'**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Section Chapter 33-6, "Membership", subsection C entitled "New Members", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

2. If a new member has had prior qualifying training and has not been inactive from the fire service for more than one (1) year, he may forgo the training requirement. However, he must have taken an approved course at a County or State School which will be approved by the Company investigating committee for transfer membership. The Investigating Committee will verify the course taken as it must be comparable to Fire Fighter No.1. In the event a new member has not met the requirements of the Fire Department, he/she shall be subject to dismissal. To accomplish this action, a vote shall be taken, with the majority rule applying. If a new member is so dismissed, his/her name shall be removed from the rolls and Mayor and Council notified as well as the other company, in writing.

**Add:**

2. In the event a new member has not met the requirements of the Fire Department, he/she shall be subject to dismissal. To accomplish this action, a vote shall be taken, with the majority rule applying. If a new member is so dismissed, his/her name shall be removed from the rolls and Mayor and Council notified as well as the other company, in writing.

Section 2. Section Chapter 33-6, "Membership", #2a, "Calculation of attendance averages" of subsection F entitled "Membership Classifications and Requirements", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

- iv. The attendance record for dispatches shall be created by the Captain of each Company, or in their absence the Officer in Charge. The Captain, or Officer in Charge, shall record the incident number, date, address and any other information deemed pertinent regarding the call. All reporting Members shall be required to sign the attendance sheet next to their pre-printed name upon reporting to a dispatch. The legend on the attendance sheet shall be used for each call. All information on the sign- in sheet shall be reflective of the information placed into the NFIRS for official reporting. Upon returning from the dispatch, the Captain or Officer in Charge shall review and sign the attendance sheet certifying that the information contained therein is accurate. The attendance sheet shall then be placed in a locked drawer and retained.
- v. Members are not entitled to credit ,nor will they have their average frozen, for sick time, (unless the injury occurred while operating in a capacity serving the Fire Department where they will then have their average frozen), vacation time, as well as other time off.
- vi. Attendance sheets for all other activities must be maintained in the same manner. Further, the attendance reports must be clear as to what category the activity completed falls under, i.e., drills, meetings, rig checks, etc. Attendance credit in any category shall not exceed the actual amount of reported activities in such category in any given month. Credit shall not be awarded to a Member for any activity not expressly approved, in writing, by the Department.

- vii. The Department Chief has the authority to implement an Extra Credit Policy as defined in the River Edge Fire Department SOP for calculating averages.

**Add:**

- iv. The attendance record for dispatches shall be created by the Captain of each Company, or in their absence the Officer in Charge. The Captain, or Officer in Charge, shall record the incident number, date, address and any other information deemed pertinent regarding the call. All reporting members must assure that the officer in command or senior member that is taking roll-call, has marked them as being present for the fire call prior to leaving the fire station. The legend on the attendance sheet shall be used for each call. All information on the sign-in sheet shall be reflective of the information placed into the NFIRS for official reporting. Upon returning from the dispatch, the Captain or Officer in Charge shall review and sign the attendance sheet certifying that the information contained therein is accurate. The attendance sheet shall then be placed in a locked drawer and retained.
- v. Members are not entitled to credit for sick time, (unless the injury occurred while operating in a capacity serving the Fire Department where they will then have their average frozen), vacation time, as well as other time of.
- vi. Members will not receive credit for fire calls or any activity that involves the use of any type of PPE or SCBA should they be in violation of any NJ Division of Fire Safety, River Edge Fire Department or PEOSHA facial hair policy/guidelines.
- vii. Attendance sheets for all other activities must be maintained in the same manner. Further, the attendance reports must be clear as to what category the activity completed falls under, i.e., drills, meetings, rig checks, etc. Attendance credit in any category shall not exceed the actual amount of reported activities in such category in any given month. Credit shall not be awarded to a Member for any activity not expressly approved, in writing, by the Department.
- viii. The Department Chief has the authority to implement an Extra Credit Policy as defined in the River Edge Fire Department SOP for calculating averages.

Section 3. Section Chapter 33-6, "Membership", #2d, "Leaves of Absence" of subsection F entitled "Membership Classifications and Requirements", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

- i. Active members in good standing may ask for a leave of absence from the Department by submitting a LOA form to the respective House Chief. The form must clearly state member's intent and a starting and ending date. The leave of absence shall not exceed six (6) months. One extension of an additional six (6) months may be requested in writing to the House Chief. An active member returning from a Leave of Absence may need to re-qualify for any special privileges (SCBA, driving status, etc.) to be determined by the Line Officers. Any member returning from a Leave of Absence may not request an additional Leave of Absence until they have completed a minimum of one quarter in good standing. A Leave of Absence extension may be granted by the house Chief and shall be noted in the minutes of the next monthly company meeting. Reasons for a Leave of Absence may include, but are not limited to, health issue/s of the member or family member, temporary relocation of a work place or work-related issue, monetary issue, etc.

- ii. Any member in good standing may request an education Leave of Absence if they are attending school out of the local area. Active members shall submit the LOA form to the House chief. The form shall identify the starting and ending dates. Any member may return to active status if they are home for an extended period of time. The member must notify the House Chief of their intent and receive their approval. A member of the Department who takes Military Leave may be reinstated within one year of discharge, or release of active duty.

All firefighters injured in the line of duty shall be immediately placed on medical leave until approved for return to full duty by their attending physician. Return to duty must be in full Firematic status. Firefighters injured not in the line of duty may request medical leave based on submission of a note from their attending physician that they are not capable of performing the normal duties of a firefighter. Return to duty shall be under the same circumstances as set forth above for line of duty injury. Firefighters who are on medical leave may not participate in the following: a) answering fire calls, b) attending work details, c) participation in drills involving physical exertion, d) parades, e) operate, drive, or ride in borough apparatus/vehicles except to funerals and permitted drills or classes. All members, while on approved Leave of absence, will have their Firematic averages frozen and will not be accountable for any fire call, drills or meetings during that time period.

**Add:**

- i. Active members in good standing may ask for a leave of absence from the Department by submitting a LOA form to the respective House Chief. The form must clearly state member's intent and a starting and ending date. The leave of absence shall not exceed six (6) months. One extension of an additional six (6) months may be requested in writing to the House Chief. An active member returning from a Leave of Absence may need to re-qualify for any special privileges (SCBA, driving status, etc.) to be determined by the Line Officers. Any member returning from a Leave of Absence may not request an additional Leave of Absence until they have completed a minimum of one quarter in good standing. A Leave of Absence extension may be granted by the house Chief and shall be noted in the minutes of the next monthly company meeting. Reasons for a Leave of Absence may include, but are not limited to, health issue/s, injury not occurring during performance of duties, of the member or family member, temporary relocation of a work place or work-related issue, monetary issue, etc.
- ii. Any member in good standing may request an education Leave of Absence if they are attending school out of the local area. Active members shall submit the LOA form to the House chief. The form shall identify the starting and ending dates. Any member may return to active status if they are home for an extended period of time. The member must notify the House Chief of their intent and receive their approval. A member of the Department who takes Military Leave may be reinstated within one year of discharge, or release of active duty.

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on approved Leave of absence, will have their Firematic averages frozen and will not be accountable for any fire call, drills or meetings during that time period.

Section 4. Section Chapter 33-9, "Disciplinary Action", subsection B entitled "Hearing of Charges; Notice of Decision", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

2. In the event of potential suspension or dismissal, the President of the Company of the accused Member shall immediately after the reading of the charges, appoint three (3) members in good standing and the President of the other fire company shall appoint two (2) members in good standing, making a committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Fire Committee") of five (5), to try the charges. The date, time and place of the hearing of said charges shall then be fixed by the Fire Committee at a meeting, which shall be specially convened for that purpose, and at least five days before the date so fixed for hearing, a written copy of said charges, together with a notice of the date, time and place of said hearing, shall be served on the member against whom the charges are made, either personally or by leaving the same at such member's usual place of abode. At the time, place and date fixed for the hearing of said charges, the Fire Committee shall hear the evidence adduced by all parties concerned and shall recommend a decision to the Mayor and Council. At all such hearings, the Fire Commissioner/Council Liaison shall be the presiding officer. At all such hearings, the respondent, as well as the person making the charges, may have the assistance of counsel in the presentation of evidence relative to the facts at issue. At all such hearings, the Fire Committee shall have the assistance of the Borough Attorney.

**Add:**

2. In the event of potential suspension or dismissal, the President of the Company of the accused Member shall immediately after the reading of the charges, appoint two (2) members in good standing and the President of the other fire company shall appoint three (3) members in good standing, making a committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Fire Committee") of five (5), to try the charges. The date, time and place of the hearing of said charges shall then be fixed by the Fire Committee at a meeting, which shall be specially convened for that purpose, and at least five days before the date so fixed for hearing, a written copy of said charges, together with a notice of the date, time and place of said hearing, shall be served on the member against whom the charges are made, either personally or by leaving the same at such member's usual place of abode. At the time, place and date fixed for the hearing of said charges, the Fire Committee shall hear the evidence adduced by all parties concerned and shall recommend a decision to the Mayor and Council. At all such hearings, the Fire Commissioner/Council Liaison shall be the presiding officer. At all such hearings, the respondent, as well as the person making the charges, may have the assistance of counsel in the presentation of evidence relative to the facts at issue. At all such hearings, the Fire Committee shall have the assistance of the Borough Attorney.

Section 5. Section Chapter 33-9, "Disciplinary Action", subsection B entitled "Hearing of Charges; Notice of Decision", shall be amended by the following:

**Add:**

6. Should the charges be against a chief officer, the Mayor and Council will then oversee and hear the charges and entire hearing. The Fire Committee will be excused in this instance. The Mayor and Council will render their decision for punishment in writing to the Chief of the department. Should

the Chief of the department be involved in the matter, then the decision shall be sent to the Assistant Fire Chief and/or Deputy Fire Chief.

Section 6. Section Chapter 33-10, “Monthly Reports to Council/Business Administrator”, shall be replaced with the following:

§ 33-10. – Quarterly Reports to Council/Business Administrator

- A. At each meeting, the Secretary shall call the roll and mark as absent all who have not attended at least a part of the meeting and shall render a record of meeting percentages to date.
- B. Immediately upon the return from a dispatch or drill and after the apparatus has been properly housed, the officer in command, or senior member should no officer be present, shall call the roll and all members not answering to the same, unless excused, shall be considered as non-attendants at such dispatch. All reporting members must assure that the officer in command or senior member that is taking roll-call, has marked them as being present for the fire call prior to leaving the fire station. Any officer or most recent Ex-Chief or the senior man in charge shall be vested with the right to excuse any member from not returning to the fire house.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Captains of each Company to keep and record the attendance at all dispatches, drills, meetings, as per the River Edge Fire Department SOP for calculating averages and present the averages for same at each monthly meeting of the Company. Any Member may challenge or dispute their average after review each quarter. Upon presentation at the monthly meeting of the Company, the Captain shall submit the averages, and supporting records, to the Fire Chief who then then forward to the Borough Administrator for review. Any dispute over a Member’s average that is not resolved in-house shall be submitted to the Borough Administrator and Council for review. The Captain shall also keep a record of all dispatches. These records and averages shall be kept in a separate book. At the end of each calendar year, one copy of these records shall be turned over to the Secretary of the Relief Association for permanent filing and signed by the Captain responsible for the averages.
- D. A roster of all Firematic and Civic Officers, Committees, and Members, signifying their start date, type of Member (i.e., active, retired, exempt, non-exempt, etc.) and position held, if applicable, shall be updated submitted to the Borough Administrator on or before January 31 of each year.

Section 7. Section Chapter 33-11, “Reimbursement of Expenses/Clothing Allowance”, subsection B entitled “Eligibility”, shall be replaced with the following:

- B. Eligibility
  - 1. Members who are active in the River Edge Fire Department are eligible to receive an expense/clothing allowance. An active member is deemed as any member that responds on apparatus to fire calls, attends and participates at training sessions, and complies with sections 2 and/or 3 of eligibility.
  - 2. Any member who achieves an annual credit percentage of forty-five (45%) and above shall be entitled to receive the full clothing allowance for his/her rank. A Member’s annual credit percentage is based strictly on their percentage of attendance at dispatches, drills and meetings in accordance the River Edge Fire Department SOP for calculating averages.
  - 3. Any member who fails to achieve an annual credit percentage of forty-five percent (45%) and above shall receive a prorated percentage of the clothing allowance for his/her rank as follows – members with annual credit percentage of between 25% and 44% will receive half of the full

amount issued to those with a 45% and above. Those members with an annual credit percentage of 24% and below will not receive any clothing allowance.

Section 8. Section Chapter 33-13, "Junior Firefighters Auxiliary", subsection B, entitled "Age and residency requirement", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

- B. Age and residency requirement. No person shall be eligible for membership in the Junior Firefighters Auxiliary who is younger than 15 years of age or older than 17 years of age. All applicants shall either reside within the Borough of River Edge or shall be related by blood, marriage, or adoption to an active member of the River Edge Fire Department.

**Add:**

- B. Age and residency requirement. No person shall be eligible for membership in the Junior Firefighters Auxiliary who is younger than 14 years of age or older than 17 years of age. All applicants shall either reside within the Borough of River Edge or shall be related by blood, marriage, or adoption to an active member of the River Edge Fire Department.

Section 9. Section Chapter 33-13, "Junior Firefighters Auxiliary", subsection F, entitled "Rules and regulations", shall be amended by the following:

**Remove:**

- F. Rules and regulations. The Junior Firefighters Auxiliary shall be subject to rules and regulations. Said rules and regulations shall be formulated by the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department and approved by the Mayor and Council. Said rules and regulations shall be formulated and approved prior to the induction of a member into the Auxiliary. Said rules and regulations shall provide for the training of Auxiliary members for eventual membership in the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department and shall further provide that no junior firefighter will be required to perform duties which would expose him or her to the same degree of hazard as a regular member of the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department.

**Add:**

- F. Rules and regulations. The Junior Firefighters Auxiliary shall be subject to rules and regulations. Said rules and regulations shall be formulated by the State Division of Fire Safety and the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department and approved by the Mayor and Council. Said rules and regulations shall be formulated and approved prior to the induction of a member into the Auxiliary. Said rules and regulations shall provide for the training of Auxiliary members for eventual membership in the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department and shall further provide that no junior firefighter will be required to perform duties which would expose him or her to the same degree of hazard as a regular member of the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department.

Section 10. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 11. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.


Section 12. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

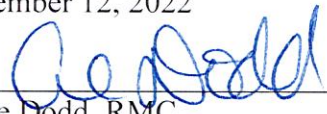
INTRODUCED: November 28, 2022

ADOPTED: December 12, 2022

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Busteed			X			
Chinigo			X			
Kaufman	X		X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari			X			
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge on December 12, 2022

  
Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

  
Anne Dodd, RMC  
Borough Clerk