

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 2020-20

No. 197 **AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 23, "STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES", ARTICLE I, ENTITLED: "IN GENERAL", OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, BY AMENDING SECTION 23-31, "USE OF SKATE BOARDS ON STREET, HIGHWAY, SIDEWALK, PEDESTRIAN MALL"**

Approved June 26, 2020

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

Section 1: Sec. 23-31. - Use of skate boards on street, highway, sidewalk, pedestrian mall.

- (a) The use of skate boards shall be permitted in all areas, and in such manner, as permitted for the operation of a bicycle unless further restricted under this Section 23-31.
- (b) No person shall ride a skateboard within:
 - i. Waterplace Park;
 - ii. Memorial Park;
 - iii. The Providence River Pedestrian Bridge; and
 - iv. Such other locations as the City Council may from time to time designate through the installation of street signs that clearly identify the area within which skateboarding is prohibited.

Section 2: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 04 2020
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

 CLERK

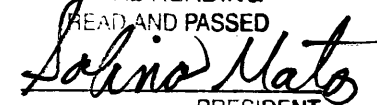
I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor

Date: 6/26/20

IN CITY
COUNCIL
JUN 18 2020
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED



PRESIDENT



CLERK

Selleck, Shawn

From: Van Sciver, Pieter <PVanSciver@YearUp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9; NirvaWard3@gmail.com
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Hello Sean,

I hope you are and winter is treating you ok. I recently read on the internet that the city was considering changing the **No Skateboards ordinance**. As a city resident (26 years plus), taxpayer (23 years) and skateboarder (30 years plus), I was very happy to learn this. As a young adult growing up in Providence, I received two \$100.00 tickets and as an adult (maybe 3 years ago) I have had my skateboard confiscated by the PVD police.

Skateboarding is a pro-social, artist expression that is healthy for young people. We need young people enjoying the city, being outside and away from screens. Not only do I think about my 5 year old son who is taking interest in skateboarding, I also think about the numerous young people I serve at Year Up. Many of them enjoy skateboarding and they would like to do so without worrying about a fine.

I have been super impressed with the cities commitment to building skateparks and bike lanes and would love to see more of that as well.

Thank you for your support!

Pieter

Pieter Van Sciver
Director, Program Quality and Delivery (Employment Placement)
National Program Team

Year Up
40 Fountain Street 7th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
401-537-2223
401-408-2153
pvensciver@yearup.org
My preferred gender pronouns are he/him/his.

Enabling young adults to move from minimum wage to meaningful careers in just one year

<http://www.yearup.org>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/year-up/>
<http://facebook.com/yearup>
<http://twitter.com/yearup>

Selleck, Shawn

From: Guido Silvestri <guido@wearecivil.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Guido Silvestri and I am the Owner of Civil Skate shop at 231 Westminster St, Providence, RI. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

Due to the antiquated criminalization of skateboarding, our youth are subjected to greater legal and physical vulnerability. A growing number of Providence residents are traveling throughout the city without a car, yet skateboarding is arbitrarily singled out as illegal. As an illegal form of transit, a skateboarder's right to damages when struck by a motor vehicle, even when the driver is at fault, is muddy legal territory. The amended language proposed in Ordinance 27140 would clarify the expectations of skateboarders to follow the same traffic laws as cyclists, increase public safety, and recognize skateboarders legal right to use city streets for transit.

I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Guido Silvestri

--
Guido Silvestri
Owner

Civil

Selleck, Shawn

From: Liza Burkin <liza@ourstreetspvd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Selleck, Shawn; Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9
Subject: City Ordinance 27140 - support for legalizing skateboarding

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Liza Burkin and I live in Ward 13. I am terrible at skateboarding but good at recognizing why it's absurd to have a healthy and efficient mode of transportation and recreation continue to be illegal in our city.

Skateboarders should have the same rights as everyone on the road – the right to travel safely and without harassment, and the right to pursue legal action if they are hurt or killed.

More people than ever are traveling outside of motor vehicles in Providence, and this trend is only growing as people seek convenient, affordable, healthy, and environmentally responsible ways of getting around. The Council should be doing everything in its power to encourage this trend, and passing the amended language proposed in Ordinance 27140 is a great way to move forward.

With appreciation,
Liza Burkin
71 Chapin Avenue

--
Organizer
Providence Streets Coalition
(401) 400-1382

pronouns: she/her

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Joanna Levitt and I live at 230 Doyle Avenue in Providence. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

joanna levitt

Joanna Levitt
joannalevitt@gmail.com

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Buck Hastings and I live at 230 Doyle Avenue in Providence. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Buck Hastings

Buck Hastings
buck.hastings@gmail.com

Selleck, Shawn

From: Justin Healey <justinhealey418@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Justin Healey, and I work at Civil Skateshop in downtown Providence. I am writing to you as your constituent *(or concerned resident/can include that you are a property owner or business owner, if that is the case)* in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Justin Healey

February 16, 2020

Providence City Council
Committee on Ordinances

Subject: Amendment to ordinance 27140 for use of skateboards

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Robert Spousta and I live at 274 Morris Avenue in Providence. I am writing to you as a property-owning constituent and concerned citizen to vigorously support the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140. I am unequivocally in favor of lifting the ban on skateboards in our city.

I have been a skateboarder for over thirty years and am a living example of the valuable lessons that the sport teaches; namely perseverance, discipline, and an appreciation for rigorous physical exercise. As an adolescent, I was punished by school administrators for riding my skateboard to school and issued numerous citations for skateboarding in public spaces due to the fact that no designated skateboard spaces existed at that time. These experiences did not help me to trust or appreciate the role of authority figures. We can do better than this. Young skateboarders in Providence today deserve to know that the city encourages them to pursue their chosen sport. Skateboarding is a healthy activity for people of all ages and is also an environmentally friendly means of transportation. As Providence moves to become increasingly hospitable to alternative forms of transport such as cycling and motorized scooters, it is absolutely illogical and counterproductive to maintain legislation that arbitrarily criminalizes skateboarding. The current ban on skateboarding is especially alarming in light of the legal grey area that it creates in the event of a car striking a skateboarder. As a parent of young children, I find this extremely problematic. I look forward to teaching my son and daughter how to skateboard, but I do not want to explain to them that our sport is technically illegal.

I sincerely hope that the City Council is able to enact the proposed amendment to end the ban on skateboarding in Providence. It will certainly help to improve public safety while ameliorating a particularly antiquated piece of legislation.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kind Regards,
Robert Spousta

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Shawn Gilheeney and I live at 42 Willow Street. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

I and many of my friends found ourselves on the wrong side of this law growing up skateboarding in Providence in the 1990's. The tickets and the constant persecution drove Many of us teenagers to pursue other illegal activities such as underage drinking since it was easier to get away with and more discreet . As soon as I turned 18 years of age I worked and saved money and moved away from this city and to California where I knew the laws and society was more progressive and Skateboarding was viewed in a good light.

The way young people are viewed by the city and society around them greatly effects their personal identity , confidence and creative ability to navigate all the trials and tribulations of adolescence and into young adult hood. By making a mode of transportation and recreational athletic pastime illegal, generations of kids will grow up feeling ostracized with a skewed sense of what is right and wrong. We should create laws that help foster a society that doesn't restrict creative pursuits but helps them flourish .

I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Shawn Gilheeney

Selleck, Shawn

From: Tyler O'Grady <togrady@alumni.risd.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Tyler O'Grady and I live on Dexter Street in Providence, RI. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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I support passing the amendment to Ordinance 27140 and I urge you to support it as well. It will protect the rights and safety of Providence residents exercising and traveling by skateboard throughout the city.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Tyler O'Grady

Selleck, Shawn

From: Luke Franco <lfranco142@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward5; Ward13; Ward4; Ward11; Ward9
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Luke Franco and I live at 285 Carpenter Street in Providence. I am writing to you as your constituent in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Selleck, Shawn

From: Alex Wynne <alex.wynne@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Selleck, Shawn
Cc: Ward11
Subject: City Ordinance 27140

Providence City Council
Committee On Ordinances

Dear Chairperson Ryan and Committee Members,

My name is Alex Wynne and I own a home at 186 Lester St. I am writing to you as your constituent, a homeowner and a business owner in support of the proposed amendment to Ordinance 27140.

It is a surprise to most people when they learn our city ordinances do not allow skateboarding for recreation or transportation. Since 1965 anyone riding a skateboard on city streets has risked a fine and confiscation of their skateboard. Young people in major cities all over the planet, and here, in Providence, are increasingly drawn to skateboarding as a creative form of exercise and expression. This summer, skateboarding will be featured as an Olympic sport for the first time. With one third of Rhode Island children found to be obese or overweight, a high concentration of which live in Providence, any and all forms healthy physical activity for young people should be encouraged rather than criminalized.

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Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Alex Wynne