



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 4-2024

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY JUVENILE RESTRICTIONS AT NATIONAL HARBOR

April 24, 2024

WHEREAS, Section 6-134, et seq., of the Prince George's County Code provides for the declaration of a Local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the National Harbor district is a 300-acre multi-use waterfront development located along the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Prince George's County, Maryland ("the County") that has approximately one-hundred and sixty (160) restaurants, forty (40) hotels, retail stores, the Capital Wheel and a plaza for outdoor dining and gathering, Tanger Outlets, including the area from Monument Avenue, MGM National Avenue, National Harbor Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Police Department provides law enforcement services at the National Harbor district. It is the responsibility of the Police Department to preserve the peace and to protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Police Department duties include traffic control, high-visibility foot and vehicular patrol, crowd control, and medical emergency assistance as necessary; and

WHEREAS, recently the National Harbor experienced an increase in criminal activity related to the gathering of large disorderly juvenile crowds. These juvenile crowds have caused nuisances to residents and visitors of the National Harbor; and

WHEREAS, there were several reports of juveniles involved in fights, disorderly conduct, stealing from the CVS Store and other vendors; and

WHEREAS, several side streets had to be blocked by County Police to help facilitate a traffic flow and to reduce hazards to juveniles walking in the roadways; and

WHEREAS, due to the disturbance caused by several juveniles, the management company of the National Harbor had to close several business locations early; and

WHEREAS, County residents and visitors to the National Harbor should be able to peacefully and safely reside, conduct businesses and visit in this area of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County has an obligation to provide for the protection of minors from each other and from other persons, for the enforcement of parental control over, and responsibility for minors, for the protection of the general public, and for the reduction of the incidence of juvenile criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, to help ensure the general public safety and welfare; now, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, on this 24th day of April, 2024, that I, Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive for Prince George's County, Maryland, hereby proclaim that a Local State of Emergency exists in Prince George's County, Maryland. It is necessary and reasonable to save lives and property, and to protect the public safety and welfare within the County by controlling and preventing further disturbance, to issue the following orders:

- I. This Order takes effect Friday, April 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Definitions:
 - a. **Juveniles** or **minors** are defined as any unemancipated person under the age of seventeen.
 - b. **Operator** means any individual, firm, association, partnership, or corporation operating, managing, or conducting any place open to the public. The term includes the members or partners of an association or partnership and the officers of a corporation.
 - c. **Place open to the public** shall mean any privately-owned place of business operated for a profit to which the public is invited, including, but not limited to, any place of amusement or entertainment, regardless of whether a charge for admission or entry is made.
 - d. **Public place** means any place to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access and includes, but is not limited to, streets, common areas of schools, shopping centers, parking lots, walking trails, parks, playgrounds, transportation facilities, theaters, restaurants, shops, bowling alleys, taverns, cafes, arcades, and similar areas that are open to the use of the public. "Street" includes any public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, the cartway of traffic lanes; the curb; the sidewalks, whether paved or unpaved; and any grass plots or other grounds found within the legal right-of-way of a street.
- III. No juvenile or minor may be or remain in or upon a public place (as defined above) or place open to the public (as defined above) at the National Harbor during the period beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and ending 6:00 am on Saturday; and at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and ending 6:00 am on Sunday; and at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and ending 6:00 am on Monday, as of the date of this order except as provided herein.
- IV. This Directive and Order does not apply to juveniles or minors when:
 - (1) accompanied by a parent or guardian;
 - (2) accompanied by a person over the age of twenty-one authorized by a parent or guardian;
 - (3) on the sidewalk in front of where the juvenile or minor resides, or the residence of a next-door neighbor, if the neighbor did not complain to the police;
 - (4) is returning home, by a direct route from a school activity, or an activity

- of a religious or other association, or place of employment; or
- (5) Authorized attendees to a senior prom event at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. Exemption is applicable to authorized attendees directly going to the Gaylord and leaving the National Harbor immediately after the prom event has ended.
- V. Any parent or guardian who knowingly allows a juvenile or minor in their care or custody to be present at or remain at a public place or place open to the public at the National Harbor under circumstances not constituting an exception to this order is subject to a civil fine up to \$250.00, as well as all costs incurred for the provision of County personnel to remain in the company of a juvenile who has been detained as a curfew violator if the parent or guardian does not pick up the juvenile within one hour after receiving notice from the County that the County is detaining the juvenile for a curfew violation. The amount to be paid by the parent or guardian shall be based on the hourly wage of the County employee who is assigned to remain with the juvenile plus the cost of benefits for that employee.
- VI. The term "knowingly" includes knowledge that a parent or guardian should reasonably be expected to have concerning the whereabouts of a juvenile or minor in their legal custody. This requirement is intended to hold a neglectful or careless parent or guardian up to a reasonable community standard of parental or guardian responsibility through an objective test. It shall, therefore, be no defense that a parent or guardian was without knowledge of the activities or conduct or whereabouts of such juvenile.
- VII. Any operator of a place open to the public at the National Harbor who knowingly allows a juvenile or minor to remain at their place open to the public in violation of this Order is subject to a civil fine up to \$250.00, as well as all costs incurred for the provision of County personnel to remain in the company of a juvenile. The amount to be paid by the operator shall be based on the hourly wage of the County employee who is assigned to remain with the juvenile plus the cost of benefits for that employee.
- VIII. The standard for "knowingly" as applied to an operator shall be applied through an objective test: whether a reasonable person in the operator's position should have known that the patron was a juvenile in violation of this Order.
- IX. This Executive Order should not be construed as prohibiting the County Police, or other governmental authority, from pursuing additional legal sanctions against the juveniles/minors, parents or guardians, or operators.
- X. This Executive Order shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless amended, renewed, or terminated earlier.

- XI. This Executive Order authorizes and directs the Prince George's County Police Department to take the necessary action to enforce this Order with the assistance of other County agencies as needed.
- XII. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.



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