

**BOROUGH OF HAWORTH  
BERGEN COUNTY  
ORDINANCE 2025-020**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE HAWORTH BOROUGH CODE TO ESTABLISH DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR BLOCK PARTY PERMITS**

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**WHEREAS**, block parties build community spirit and foster neighborly relations among residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough requires a clear process for residents to obtain block party permits that may involve temporary street closures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth as follows:

**SECTION 1: AMENDMENT TO SECTION 9-11 (DEFINITIONS)**

Section 9-11 of Chapter 9 "Fields, Parks, and Public Areas" is amended to add the following definitions:

**BLOCK PARTY** – A neighborhood gathering or organized party of persons who reside on the portion of a residential street sought to be closed for said gathering or party.

**STREET CLOSURE** – The temporary blocking of vehicular traffic on a Borough Street or portion thereof to accommodate authorized activities including but not limited to block parties, filming, construction, parades, or special events.

**SECTION 2: NEW SECTION 9-12 (BLOCK PARTY PERMITS)**

Chapter 9 is amended to add a new Section 9-12 as follows:

**§ 9-12 BLOCK PARTY PERMITS**

**§ 9-12.1 Permit Required**

No person shall conduct a block party involving street closure without first obtaining a block party permit from the Borough.

**§ 9-12.2 Application Requirements**

a. Applications must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk at least 20 business days before the proposed date.

b. The permit fee is \$50.00 as established by Section 9-11.2.

c. Applications must include:

1. Applicant's name, address, telephone number, and email address
2. Block party organizer's name and contact information (if different from applicant)
3. Proposed date and time (start and end)
4. Rain date (if desired)
5. Street name and cross streets defining the closure area
6. Estimated number of attendees
7. Description of planned activities and any equipment (tents, inflatable devices, stages, vehicles)
8. Whether amplified music or sound equipment will be used

### **§ 9-12.3 Hold Harmless Agreement**

Applicants must execute a hold harmless agreement approved by the Borough Attorney, agreeing to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Borough, its officers, agents, and employees from any liability arising from the block party.

### **§ 9-12.4 Department Review**

a. The Municipal Clerk forwards applications to:

- Chief of Police or designee
- Department of Public Works Superintendent or designee
- Fire Chief or designee (when deemed necessary)

b. Each department evaluates:

- Traffic safety and flow
- Risk of damage to persons or property
- Emergency vehicle access
- Public health, safety, and welfare

c. Departments notify the Clerk of approval or concerns within 10 business days.

d. The Chief of Police determines if off-duty police officers are required based on the event scope and street closure. Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with required police presence.

### **§ 9-12.5 Mayor and Council Approval**

a. Following department approvals, the Clerk places the application on the next Mayor and Council meeting agenda.

b. The Mayor and Council may approve or deny the application by resolution.

c. The resolution shall specify:

1. Applicant's name
2. Street to be closed and cross streets
3. Date and time period
4. Any conditions imposed by departments
5. Reference to the hold harmless agreement

### **§ 9-12.6 Permit Conditions**

All block party permits are subject to the following conditions:

a. The permit holder is responsible for conduct of all attendees and compliance with all Borough ordinances and regulations.

b. The permit holder is responsible for any damage to Borough property.

c. The permit holder must notify residents on the affected block at least 72 hours prior to the event.

d. Emergency vehicles must have access to the closed street at all times. Obstacles must be readily movable to allow emergency vehicle entry.

e. The permit holder must remove all debris, equipment, trash, and garbage immediately upon conclusion.

f. The permit holder must comply with all applicable noise ordinances and other Borough regulations.

g. The permit holder must carry the block party permit during the event.

h. The permit holder must comply with all conditions imposed by reviewing officials.

i. Generally, one block party per year per block may be requested unless the Mayor and Council determine additional permits may be issued.

### **§ 9-12.7 Permit Revocation**

The Borough may revoke any permit if the permit holder fails to comply with conditions, violates any Borough ordinance, or if circumstances endanger public health, safety, or welfare.

### **§ 9-12.8 Rain Date and Rescheduling**

- a. If an approved rain date exists and the block party cannot be held on the original date due to inclement weather, the permit automatically transfers to the rain date.
- b. For other rescheduling, the permit holder may request approval through the Clerk, subject to department review and Council approval. No additional fee is required if rescheduling is due to weather or circumstances beyond the applicant's control.
- c. The permit holder must notify the Clerk, Police Department, and Department of Public Works of any cancellation or postponement as soon as practicable.

### **§ 9-12.9 Emergency Waiver**

- a. The 20-business day advance filing requirement may only be waived in extraordinary circumstances where strict compliance would create a demonstrated hardship and the delay was caused by circumstances genuinely beyond the applicant's control.
- b. Emergency waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the Clerk and include:
  - 1. Detailed explanation of extraordinary circumstances
  - 2. Documentation showing circumstances were beyond applicant's control
  - 3. Reason why the application could not have been timely filed
- c. The emergency waiver application requires an additional non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Payment does not guarantee approval.
- d. The Clerk immediately forwards the waiver request to the Chief of Police, DPW Superintendent, and Fire Chief for expedited review. All department approvals must be obtained first.
- e. Upon receipt of all department approvals, the Mayor or their designee may approve the emergency waiver to allow the block party to proceed.
- f. The emergency waiver approval shall be presented to the Mayor and Council for retroactive ratification at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- g. Granting a waiver does not waive any other requirements. All other application requirements, fees, and conditions remain in full effect.
- h. Emergency waivers shall be granted sparingly and only in truly exceptional circumstances. Lack of advance planning is not grounds for emergency waiver.

### **§ 9-12.10 Violations and Penalties**

Any person who violates this section or fails to comply with block party permit conditions shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 9-16 of this Chapter.

### **SECTION 3: REPEALER**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

### **SECTION 4: SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

### **SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance takes effect upon final passage, adoption, and publication as required by law.




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**HEATHER WASSER, Mayor**

**Introduced:** 10/28/2025

**Adopted:** 11/12/2025



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**GREGORY ZAGAJA, Borough Clerk**