

October 30, 2013

Honorable Town Council Members
c/o Chairman Richard Anania
250 Main Street
East Haven, CT 06512

Re: Proposed ATV Ordinance

Dear Council Members:

Kindly take this letter as my input regarding the proposed ATV Ordinance before your council for consideration tonight.

Over the past year, there has been a clear increase in the number of calls from residents with concerns about the noise pollution and safety issues raised by individuals operating unregistered recreational vehicles on our public roads. In speaking with residents, the chief complaint is that these vehicles are very loud. Additionally, residents commonly express concerns that the individuals operating these vehicles do so recklessly and with little regard for State and local traffic laws.

As I've discussed with Chief Brent Larrabee, the challenge in regulating these vehicles relates to the difficulty in catching the individuals operating them. Pursuing or chasing these vehicles is nearly impossible to do without risking significant injury to officers, the individuals operating the vehicles, and innocent bystanders. However, in the instances in which individuals are apprehended safely, there is presently no ordinance in Town through which the police can hold the individuals accountable.

The ordinance before you tonight will allow the Police Department to impose significant fines for operating unregistered recreational vehicles on our roads and to seize said vehicles pending a disposition by the courts. First offenders are subject to a \$1,000.00 fine, with subsequent offenses allowing for larger fines.

I expect that this ordinance, due to the steep fines and the prospect of having property seized, will significantly deter individuals from operating these vehicles across Town.

However, this ordinance is just a first step. I have already spoken with the Chief and discussed the need for the Police Department to formulate a safe, innovative way to apprehend individuals who violate this ordinance.

I strongly encourage you to pass this ordinance so that the Town can begin to enforce it and address the noise and safety concerns of our residents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr.