

1 **..Title**

2 **Non-motorized Wheeled Vehicles on Sidewalks** - For the purpose of encouraging the Maryland
3 General Assembly to amend State law to allow non-motorized wheeled vehicles on sidewalks by
4 default; providing amendment language; and generally relating to non-motorized wheeled vehicles
5 on sidewalks.

6 **..Body**

7 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
8 **City of Annapolis**

9
10 **Resolution 2-21**

11 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Tierney**

12 **Co-sponsored by: Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderman Schandelmeier**

13 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

14
15 **Non-motorized Wheeled Vehicles on Sidewalks**

16
17 **FOR** the purpose of encouraging the Maryland General Assembly to amend State law to allow
18 non-motorized wheeled vehicles on sidewalks by default; providing amendment language;
19 and generally relating to non-motorized wheeled vehicles on sidewalks.

20
21 **WHEREAS,** Annapolis requires a more diverse and resilient transportation system to support its
22 citizens and commerce; and

23 **WHEREAS,** alternative transportation modes contribute increasingly to the diversity and
24 resilience of the overall transportation system; and

25 **WHEREAS,** non-motorized wheeled vehicles, such as bicycles, are growing in their importance
26 among alternative modes of transportation; and

27 **WHEREAS,** safety concerns represent the primary factor inhibiting people who want to use non-
28 motorized vehicles for transportation; and

29 **WHEREAS,** the development of new infrastructure, such as individualized road lanes and paths
30 for non-motorized vehicles, or pedestrian only paths are hindered by lack of funding
31 and time constraints; and

32 **WHEREAS,** infrastructure in the form of sidewalks currently exist but are underutilized due to
33 a defect in State law that exacerbates personal safety concerns among cyclists; and

34 **WHEREAS,** child, elderly, and inexperienced cyclists are presently mandated by State law to
35 use roads and streets designed for high-speed automotive traffic when safer and
36 underutilized sidewalks are available; and

37 **WHEREAS,** state, county, and municipal laws are confusing, inconsistent, and either discourage
38 or prohibit the safe use of existing infrastructure by non-motorized wheeled
39 vehicles; and

40 **WHEREAS,** Maryland stands in a small minority of 4 out of 50 states and the District of
41 Columbia in prohibiting non-motorized wheeled vehicles on sidewalks; and

42 **WHEREAS,** on January 11, 2021, the Annapolis City Council adopted Ordinance 31-20, to serve
43 as an interim measure pending reform of State law.
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1 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the Maryland General
4 Assembly is encouraged to modify the Maryland Annotated Code, Transportation Article, Section
5 21-1103(b)(2) to allow by default non-motorized vehicles on sidewalks throughout the State of
6 Maryland, and suggests the following amendments:

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8 “Maryland State Code, Transportation, Title 21 - Vehicle Laws -- Rules of the Road Subtitle 11 -
9 Miscellaneous Rules, § 21-1103. Driving on sidewalk.

- 10
11 a) Except as provided in subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section, a person may not drive any
12 vehicle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless it is a permanent or authorized temporary
13 driveway.
- 14 b)
- 15 1) For the purposes of this subsection, “bicycle” does not include “moped”, as defined in
16 § 11-134.1 of this article.
 - 17 2) ~~Where allowed~~ **UNLESS PROHIBITED** by local ordinance, a person may ride a
18 bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area. **RIDERS SHALL**
19 **PROCEED IN A SAFE MANNER, YIELDING TO PEDESTRIANS.**
 - 20 3) In a place where a person may ride a bicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area, a
21 person may also ride a bicycle from the curb or edge of the roadway in or through a
22 crosswalk to the opposite curb or edge of the roadway.
- 23 c) Unless prohibited by local ordinance, an individual with a disability may use a special
24 vehicle other than a wheelchair on sidewalks or sidewalk areas.
- 25 d) An individual may use a wheelchair on sidewalks or sidewalk areas in accordance with §
26 21-501.1 of this title.”
- 27

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that members
29 of our delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, especially those members on the Maryland
30 Transportation Caucus, are encouraged to advocate for these amendments to the Maryland State
31 Code.

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33 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
34 of Annapolis will continue to work with Anne Arundel County in an effort to unify State, County,
35 and City laws relating to non-motorized wheeled vehicles.

36
37 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
38 of Annapolis commits to work with Anne Arundel County to develop clear assessment
39 requirements, safety standards, and administrative procedures under any State reformed law
40 relating to sidewalks and non-motorized wheeled vehicles.

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42 **AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
43 Clerk shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker
44 of the House of Delegates, and the Maryland Municipal League.

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46 **EXPLANATION**

47 UPPERCASE indicates matter added.

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~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken.