



COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

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ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY BURNING BAN THROUGHOUT TALBOT COUNTY DUE TO PROLONGED OR UNUSUAL CONDITIONS THAT ARE CONDUCTIVE TO THE EASY START AND SPREAD OF FIRE

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 119-6(A) of the Talbot County Code (the “County Code”), a majority of the County Council of Talbot County (the “County Council”) may, in their capacity as County Executive, impose a burning ban at any time in any part(s) of Talbot County, Maryland (the “County”), or throughout the County as a whole, based on the affirmative recommendation and finding of the Burn Ban Committee (the “Committee”) that prolonged or unusual conditions exist that are conducive to the easy start and spread of fire; and

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing abnormally dry conditions with the potential for drought conditions in portions of the County through the month of October and into the month of November; and

WHEREAS, the National Climatic Data Center shows 51 percent of the State of Maryland is experiencing abnormally dry conditions, and 36 percent of the State is already in a drought condition; and

WHEREAS, vegetation along Maryland’s Eastern Shore, including in the County, is dry and prone to ignition as the County endures such abnormally dry and drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the number and scope of recent wild fire reports and incidents have recently increased in the Mid-Shore area, consuming vital firefighting resources; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasts for the Mid-Shore Region do not show any appreciable precipitation in the near future, thus, the dry and drought conditions are likely to continue for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the foregoing, on October 24, 2024, the Committee recommended that the County Council impose a burning ban throughout the County for a period of 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the exercise of sound and prudent discretion to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, to conserve firefighting resources, and to protect the general public and their property from such increased risks and instances of fires, reasonably requires the County Council to be proactive by immediately banning open-air burning throughout the County in accordance with § 119-6(A) of the County Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland, on this 25th day of October 2024, that:

1. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as findings of fact and are incorporated by reference as a substantive part of this Administrative Resolution.

2. A complete ban on all open-air burning is hereby imposed throughout the County.

3. During the entire time this burning ban is in effect, no person may allow, permit, cause, start, or continue, despite a request to discontinue, any open-air burning.

4. As used in this Administrative Resolution, "open-air burning" means burning any material in the open or in a receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney, including use of fireworks, sparklers, or sparkling devices, excepting lawfully permitted municipal fireworks displays.

5. The burning ban adopted by this Administrative Resolution shall become effective on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and shall continue for a period of 30 days, and shall expire on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., unless terminated or extended by separate resolution or legislative act before that date.

6. As used in this Administrative Resolution, the term "public officer" means the Chief Code Compliance Officer, their designee(s), Talbot County Fire Chiefs, and their designee(s).

7. During the entire time the burning ban imposed hereunder is in effect, a public officer having reasonable suspicion to believe that open-air burning is occurring in the County may enter upon the public or private property of any person to extinguish the fire and may confiscate any unused fireworks, sparklers, or sparkling devices if any such materials or devices have been involved with or used in violation of the burning ban. Nothing in this section authorizes any public officer to enter any dwelling, structure, or building.

8. This Administrative Resolution is subject to amendment or modification, including extension or termination by a separate resolution or legislative act of the Council as may be reasonably required from time to time.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Administrative Resolution shall take effect on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. as aforesaid.

INTRODUCED by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland at a special meeting on October 25, 2024, at which meeting copies were available to the public.

ADOPTED by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland at a special meeting on October 25, 2024, at which meeting copies were available to the public.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE GREAT SEAL OF TALBOT COUNTY, THIS 25th DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR.

ADOPTED:

AYE (via absentee ballot)

Chuck F. Callahan, President

By the Council: October 25, 2024

Certified Susan Moran
Susan Moran, Secretary

AYE (via Zoom roll call)

Pete Leshner, Vice President

AYE (via Zoom roll call)

Keasha N. Haythe

AYE (via absentee ballot)

Lynn L. Mielke



Dave Stepp