

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-03

**ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 180 ENTITLED "CHILDREN'S FUND" OF THE
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

WHEREAS, the Verona Children's Fund was established in 1984 to assist children of Verona families in need as a result of illness, unemployment, calamity, or death or divorce within their family unit; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Fund allows children to benefit from stability while their family is overcoming adversity; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Fund aids children who are at risk and private Children's Fund contributions assist families in providing for a healthy and safe environment and positive socialization with peers by subsidizing recreational programs, school functions, public pool memberships, meal assistance, holiday assistance, medical care and like uses; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Fund when originally created was established as a Trust Fund through the Dedication by Rider function authorized pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49* thereby establishing the legal and fiscal foundation to achieve the purpose of the Children Fund; and

WHEREAS, food gift certificates, holiday assistance, school physicals, immunizations, school lunches, and eyeglasses are also examples of assistance which has been provided to children of Verona; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Fund is supported solely through private donations; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona desires to formally establish and codify the Children's Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a new Chapter 180 entitled "Children's Fund" of the Code of the Township of Verona to read as follows:

§ 180-1 - Establishment

There is hereby established an account in the General Trust Fund which shall be funded through a Dedication by Rider designated as the "Verona Children's Fund" (hereinafter referred to as the "Children's Fund"). Private donations shall be considered the funds from which the Children's Fund may, as directed by the Fund Coordinator with approval from the Fund Committee, be utilized exclusively for the following purposes list in § 180-2.

§ 180-2 - Purpose

The purpose of the Children's Fund shall be to assist children of Verona families in need of support as a result of serious illness, unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, death or divorce. The Children's Fund shall allow children to benefit from stability while their parents, legal guardians or guardians as appropriate are overcoming adversity. The Children's Fund may also be used to support seriously injured or ill children whose family is in financial distress because of a child's medical condition. The Children's Fund shall aid children who are at risk due to their family situation. It shall provide for a healthy and safe environment and positive socialization with peers by subsidizing recreational programs, school functions, public pool memberships, meal assistance, holiday assistance, medical care and like uses.

§ 180-3 - Funding of the Children's Fund

The Children's Fund shall be funded entirely through private donations. The Children's Fund shall also be permitted to accept testamentary bequests, any other non-monetary donations, and such supplementary funding as the Fund Committee may, in their sole discretion, to authorize and appropriate-subject to oversight by the Chief Financial Officer and to be audited by the Township Auditor. Non-monetary donations shall be received, inventoried and disbursed in accordance with the policies set by the Fund Committee pursuant to this Chapter. Any and all interest accruing with respect to the Children's Fund shall be credited to the Children's Fund.

§ 180-4 - Fund Coordinator

The Children's Fund Coordinator shall be the Director of the Department of Community Services. The Fund Coordinator shall file, catalogue, and distribute all requests for assistance to other Fund Committee meetings. Private donations shall be processed through the Finance Department.

§ 180-5 - Fund Committee

- A. There is hereby established a Children's Fund Committee which shall consist of the following members.
 - 1. Director of the Department of Community Services
 - 2. Chief Financial Officer
 - 3. Township Manager
- B. The Fund Committee shall be responsible for the development of policies and procedures for the collection, inventory and disbursement of funds and donations received by the Children's Fund. No funds shall be disbursed without a recorded vote of the majority of the Fund Committee.
- C. No member of the Fund Committee shall be permitted to act on any matter in which the member has, either directly, indirectly or remotely, any personal or financial interest, and she/he shall adhere to and abide by the provisions of the Local Government Ethics Law of the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1991, c. 29 (*N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5*). Whenever any such member shall disqualify himself or herself from acting on a particular matter, he or she shall not continue to sit with the Fund Committee on hearing any such matter nor participate in any discussion or decisions relating thereto.
- D. The Fund Committee shall issue a quarterly report to the Township Council as to the amount and number of donations received and the amount and number of donations made to those in need from donated funds. The identity of all recipients shall remain confidential unless required by law for such identities to be disclosed. The personal, familial, and financial circumstances shall, at all times, remain under sealed file and may only be released upon approval of the Township Manager with written advice issued by the Township Attorney.
- E. The Fund Committee shall develop a priority system to determine how donated funds are to be distributed, recognizing that many cases may be worthy of consideration and the timing of circumstances may impact disbursement of funds.

SECTION 2. If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence or any other part of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication and otherwise as provided by law.



ATTEST:

Jennifer Kiernan
JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED ORDINANCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE STAR LEDGER, A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AND CIRCULATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE ISSUE OF JANUARY 29, 2021 AND FEBRUARY 12, 2021.

**JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

INTRODUCTION: January 25, 2021
PUBLIC HEARING: February 8, 2021
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 28, 2021