September 14, 2022

RE: Improper Parking at Fairfield Recreation Complex

Dear Recreation Complex User:

With the beautiful fall weather and sports season already upon us, the Township of Fairfield’s incredible recreation complex is getting a lot of daily use between practices, pickleball, bocce ball, the new swing set area or from walkers and joggers. This use drastically increases on days and nights when there are competitive sporting events occurring at the various fields.

In an attempt to help alleviate parking issues, the township increased the number of parking spaces at the complex in the area of the library and the recreation building. It should also be noted that there is parking available in the pool complex that is often not used by those attending these events. While it would appear that there is not sufficient parking for all those wishing to attend these events, there actually is. As such, many individuals are choosing to park their vehicles outside of parking stalls, which is in violation of Fairfield local ordinance, or in areas that prohibit parking in violation of New Jersey motor vehicle laws even though there is parking available at the pool or at offsite parking on certain sides of neighboring streets.

When vehicles are left parked illegally, they greatly impact the movement and safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the complex and prevent and hinder first responder vehicles from accessing the area in the event of an emergency. As Chief of Police and the individual in charge of public safety at this complex, I cannot in good conscience let this activity take hold or continue.

The Fairfield Police Department has always exercised its discretion in trying to seek compliance in obeying the law by first providing a warning rather than taking any type of enforcement action and I am trying to do the same here. Please accept this letter as that warning. Beginning immediately, more officers will be assigned to patrol the recreation complex as a means to assure that all who use this facility are safe and that enforcement actions be taken against any vehicles that are parked illegally by way of a summonses.
It is truly my hope that this letter will assist in helping to obtain voluntary compliance and alleviate this public safety concern and that not one summons need ever be issued. I thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Anthony G. Manna,
Chief of Police