

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 10.34, MOTORIZED SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS, OF THE PALOS HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE**

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. That Title 10, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Palos Hills Municipal Code, be amended by changing Chapter 10.34, Motorized Scooters and Skateboards, to read as follows:

**Chapter 10.34 – ELECTRONIC MOTORIZED DEVICES**

**10.34.010 – Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*High-speed electronic bicycle* means a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor that provides assistance when the rider is pedaling and that is capable of reaching speeds in excess of 28 miles per hour. A high-speed electric bicycle may be a moped or a motor driven cycle.

*High-speed electronic scooter* means a device weighing more or less than 100 pounds, with two (2) or three (3) wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is solely powered by an electronic motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is greater than ten (10) miles per hour. A high-speed electronic scooter is a type of motor driven cycle.

*Legal Guardian* means any foster parent, or any person appointed guardian, or otherwise awarded custody, of a minor by a court of law in this state, or any person appointed guardian or given custody of a minor under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, but shall not include any person appointed guardian only to the estate of a minor.

*Low-speed electronic bicycle* means a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following classes:

- (i) Class I: an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour;
- (ii) Class II: an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour; or,

- (iii) Class III: an bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

A low-speed electric bicycle does not include a moped or a motor driven cycle.

*Low-speed electronic scooter* means a device weighing less than 100 pounds, with two (2) or three (3) wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is solely powered by an electronic motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than ten (10) miles per hour. A low-speed electronic scooter does not include a moped or motor driven cycle.

*Minor* means any person who has not yet attained the age of eighteen (18).

*Parent* means the father or mother of a minor child, whether by birth or adoption.

#### **10.34.020 – Locational Prohibitions.**

(a) Low-speed electronic bicycles shall only be operated on public streets having a posted speed limit of twenty (20) miles per hour or less and on designated bicycle paths. Provided, however, low speed electronic bicycles may be operated to cross a public street at an intersection where the public street to be crossed has a posted speed limit in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour. No low-speed electronic bicycles shall be operated on any sidewalk, trail, walking path, bridle path, public parking lot, parkway, or public park in the City.

(b) Low-speed electronic scooters shall only be operated on sidewalks. No low-speed electronic scooter shall be operated on any public street, trail, bicycle path, bridle path, walking path, public parking lot, parkway, or public park in the City.

(c) High-speed electronic bicycles and high-speed electronic scooters shall only be operated on public streets by duly licensed operators when and as authorized by Illinois law. High-speed electronic bicycles and high-speed electronic scooters shall not be operated on any sidewalk, trail, bicycle path, bridle path, walking path, public parking lot, parkway, or public park in the City.

#### **10.34.030 – Low-Speed Electronic Bicycles; Operating Requirements.**

Where not otherwise prohibited, the operation of all low-speed electronic bicycles shall be permitted subject to the following:

(a) No person shall operate a Class I or Class II electric bicycle unless he/she is 13 years of age or older.

(b) No person shall operate a Class III low-speed electronic bicycle unless he/she is 16 years of age or older.

(c) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic bicycle that:

(i) does not comply with equipment and manufacturing requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 CFR 1512; and,

(ii) does not have permanently affixed to the bicycle in a prominent location a label shall containing, in Arial font in at least 9-point type, the following information: (A) a classification number for the bicycle that corresponds with a class under this chapter; (B) the bicycle's top assisted speed; and, (C) the bicycle's motor wattage.

(d) No person shall operate a Class I low-speed electronic bicycle that does not, when pedaling stops or when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour, disengage or cease to make function the electric motor.

(e) No person shall operate a Class II low-speed electronic bicycle that does not, when brakes are applied or when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour, disengage or cease to make function the electric motor.

(f) No person shall operate a Class III low-speed electronic bicycle that does not, when pedaling stops or when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour, disengage or cease to make function the electric motor.

(g) No person shall operate a low-speed electric bicycle the speed capability or engagement of which has been tampered or modified without replacing the label required under Section 10.34.030(c)(ii).

(h) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic bicycle at nighttime (30 minutes following sunset) that is not equipped with and have operational a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear that is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, except that a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to or instead of the red reflector.

(i) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic bicycle that is not otherwise well-maintained and in good operating condition.

(j) No person shall operate a low-speed electric bicycle while carrying any package, bundle or article that prevents the operator from safely maintaining control of the bicycle nor shall the person operate the low-speed electronic bicycle while distracted in any way, including while using a cell phone.

(k) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic bicycle while carrying or transporting another person or animal thereupon.

(l) No person operating a low-speed electronic bicycle shall fail to yield to all other persons, animals, and devices on or using said street or designated bicycle path.

(m) No person operating a low-speed electronic bicycle shall fail to adhere to any other local, state, or federal law, rule, regulation, or order governing the condition or movement of the same.

(n) No person being under the age of 16 shall operate a low-speed electronic bicycle without a helmet. Such helmet shall be properly fitted and fastened securely upon the rider's head by a strap that meets the federal safety standard for bicycle helmets.

#### **10.34.040 – Low-Speed Electronic Scooters; Operating Requirements.**

Where not otherwise prohibited on public property, the operation of all low-speed electronic scooters shall be permitted subject to the following:

(a) No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall operate a low-speed electric scooter.

(b) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic scooter that is not equipped with a brake that will adequately control movement of and stop and hold the low-speed electric scooter.

(c) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic scooter at nighttime (30 minutes following sunset) that is not equipped with a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear that is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, except that a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to or instead of the red reflector; and,

(d) No person shall operate a low-speed electronic scooter that is not otherwise well-maintained and in good operating condition.

(e) No person shall operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying any package, bundle or article that prevents the operator from safely maintaining control of the scooter nor shall the person operate the low-speed electronic scooter while distracted in any way, including while using a cell phone.

(f) No person shall operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying or transporting another person or an animal thereupon.

(g) No person operating a low-speed electronic scooter shall fail to yield to all other persons, animals, and devices on or using said sidewalk.

(h) No person operating a low-speed electronic scooter shall fail to adhere to any other local, state, or federal law, rule, regulation, or order governing the condition or movement of the same.

**10.34.050 – Parental Responsibility.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for the parent or legal guardian of an unemancipated minor residing with such parent or legal guardian to fail to exercise proper parental responsibility by allowing or permitting said minor to commit any violation of this chapter.

(b) A parent or legal guardian shall be presumed to have allowed or permitted said minor to have committed a violation of chapter if said minor, within two (2) years following the receipt of legal notice by the parent or legal guardian, has been either adjudicated to have committed, has been charged with the violation (except if found to be not guilty), or has admitted to have committed any violation of this chapter. The legal notice shall be in substantially the following form:

*LEGAL NOTICE*

*To: (Parents' names)*

*From: City of Palos Hills*

*You are hereby notified that (insert minor's name) has been involved in the commission of (specify offense), which is a violation of Section (insert City Code Section) of the Palos Hills Municipal Code. If your minor child is again involved in a violation of Chapter 10.34, Electronic Motorized Devices, you will be charged with Parental Irresponsibility. Conviction for said offense can result in a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). You are hereby notified that you must exercise proper parental responsibility over said minor by controlling his unlawful conduct.*

**10.34.060 – Penalties.**

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be fined in an amount of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) for each violation. Each day a violation occurs or is permitted to continue shall constitute a new and separate offense.

SECTION 2. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as they conflict herewith.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be immediately in full force and effect after passage, approval and publication. This ordinance is authorized to be published in pamphlet form.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Palos Hills and deposited in the office of the City Clerk this 4th day of September, 2025.

<u>WARD</u>	<u>ALDERMAN</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
1	Martin Kleefisch	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
	Michael Price	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
2	Pauline A. Stratton	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
	Mark Brachman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
3.	Jennifer Frankowicz	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
	Michael A. Lebarre	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
4.	Phillip Abed	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
	Peter Donahue	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
5.	Artur Krasowski	_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	Donna O'Connell	_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
	Mayor	_____	_____	_____	_____

Donna M. Howak  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED by me this 4th day of September, 2025.

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MAYOR

