



# NEWS RELEASE

## OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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**For Immediate Release:**

**OC INSTITUTES STRICT LASER POINTER LAW**

The Ocean City Mayor and City Council on Monday passed a new "Harassment by Laser Pointer" law (OC Local Ordinance - Art II, Div 1, Sec 58-31), which is now in effect throughout the Town of Ocean City.

The new ordinance makes it unlawful for anyone to focus, or shine a laser pointer directly or indirectly on another person or animal in any manner. It is also unlawful for any person to shine a laser pointer directly or indirectly on a balcony, porch, patio, deck or any other structure where a person or persons may be gather or in any window or door, or any vehicle on land, air or water, which includes but is not limited to cars, bicycles, scooters, buses, trams, planes, helicopters, boats, jet skies, motorcycles, Segways or wheelchairs in any manner.

**It is also illegal for minors to purchase or possess laser pointers within the corporate limits of Ocean City.**

It is also a crime for any person to shine a laser pointer on the beach, boardwalk, public streets or sidewalks or from private property onto the beach, boardwalk, public streets or sidewalks, or from public property onto private property or from private property onto another private property.

Additionally, it is unlawful to sell a laser pointer without having a sign conspicuously posted at the point of sale or exchange advising potential purchasers of the Ocean City laser pointer law. It is unlawful to sell a laser pointer without providing the purchaser with written notice, in bold face type, a copy setting forth verbatim the laws set forth in the Ocean City Code.

The new penalties for violations of this new law make it a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to 6 months in jail and or a \$1,000 fine. Beginning immediately the OCPD will be strictly enforcing this new ordinance and is asking for the public's cooperation and compliance.

As a reminder, laser pointers are not toys. These devices should never be shined on or around people or animals. The devices, if used improperly, pose risks to humans and animals and could cause eye damage. Parents of children who have been given laser pointers are reminded that it is no longer legal for minor children to possess laser pointers and they should be restricted from their use.

The new ordinance is posted on the Town of Ocean City web page: [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov).

**August 2, 2010**

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. [OCPD@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:OCPD@oceancitymd.gov)  
For additional public safety information, go to the Official OCPD Blog at: <http://ocpdmdinfo.blogspot.com> or view real-time public safety advisories on "Twitter" by searching OCPDMDInfo.



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