

# BALLOON RELEASE ORDINANCE

In an effort to reduce litter and pollution, as well as the harmful effects to wildlife and marine animals and fishes:

1. The Town of Unity finds that the release into the atmosphere large numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animal.

2. It is unlawful for any person: an individual, trust firm, joint stock company, corporation cooperative, partnership or association to intentionally release, organize the release, or intentionally cause to be released within a 24-hour period 10 or more balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air except for:

a. Balloons released by a person on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes;

b. Hot air balloons that are recovered after launch.

c. Balloons released indoors; or

d. Balloons that are either biodegradable or photodegradable, as determined by rule of the Marine Fisheries Commission, and which are closed by a hand-tied knot in the stem of the balloon without string, ribbon, or other attachments. In the event that any balloons are released pursuant to the exemption established in this paragraph, the party responsible for the release shall make available to any law enforcement officer evidence of the biodegradability or photodegradability of said balloons in the form of a certificate executed by the manufacturer. Failure to provide said evidence shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this act.

3. Any person found in violation of subsection 2 is guilty of a non-criminal infraction punishable by a fine of \$250 paid to the Town of Unity. This ordinance shall be enforced by the town's code enforcement officer or deputy code enforcement officer.