

**BOROUGH OF HELMETTA
ORDINANCE 2026-03**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 ("STREETS AND SIDEWALKS") OF
THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HELMETTA TO REVISE REQUIREMENTS
RELATED TO SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL AND TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS
GOVERNING MAILBOX PLACEMENT, FIRE HYDRANT CLEARANCE,
BASKETBALL HOOPS, AND TREE CLEARANCE OVER PUBLIC STREETS AND
CURBS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Helmetta are charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, the Borough maintains public streets and sidewalks and must ensure that such infrastructure remains safe and accessible for pedestrian travel, emergency response, and snow removal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that certain provisions of Chapter 50 of the Borough Code should be revised to clarify responsibilities for snow removal, sidewalk maintenance, and related conditions that impact municipal snowplowing and emergency access; and

WHEREAS, the Borough further finds it necessary to establish clear standards governing the placement of mailboxes, the clearing of fire hydrants, the placement of basketball hoops near the curbline, and the trimming of trees that overhang public streets so as to avoid interference with snow removal equipment and other municipal vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Helmetta, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 50, Article II ("Snow and Ice Removal"), Section 50-28 ("Duty to remove") of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

§ 50-28. Duty to remove snow and ice.

A. The owner, tenant, occupant, or person having charge of any property abutting a public sidewalk within the Borough shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk adjoining such property within twenty-four (24) hours after the snow or ice has ceased to fall or form.

B. Such removal shall be performed in a manner that clears a continuous path of reasonable width along the sidewalk to permit safe pedestrian passage.

C. The Borough shall remain responsible for the maintenance and clearing of sidewalks adjacent to or serving Borough-owned property. Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve the owner or occupant of property abutting a sidewalk of the responsibility to remove snow and ice from such sidewalk, notwithstanding that the sidewalk may be located within the public right-of-way.

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D. No person shall deposit, throw, shovel, plow, or otherwise place snow or ice onto any public street, roadway, or right-of-way in a manner that interferes with municipal snow removal operations or creates a hazard for vehicular or pedestrian travel.

E. In the event that the owner, tenant, occupant, or person having charge of property fails to remove snow or ice as required herein, the Borough may cause the same to be removed and the cost thereof may be assessed against the property in the manner permitted by law.

SECTION 2. Chapter 50, Article II, of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta is hereby amended to add a new section regulating mailbox placement as follows:

§ 50-31. Mailbox placement.

A. All mailboxes serving residential or commercial properties located along Borough streets shall be installed behind the curbline or otherwise positioned so that the mailbox and supporting post are not located within the curb or gutter area of the roadway.

B. Mailboxes shall be installed in a manner that does not obstruct the safe passage of snowplows, municipal vehicles, or emergency vehicles along the curbline.

C. Any mailbox installed within the curb area, gutter line, or roadway edge that interferes with snow removal operations may be subject to removal or relocation by the property owner upon notice from the Borough.

D. The Borough shall not be responsible for damage to mailboxes or mailbox supports that are installed within the curb area or otherwise placed in violation of this section. The Borough shall further not be responsible for clearing snow or ice deposited around mailboxes as a result of snowplowing or other snow removal operations performed on public streets, and property owners shall remain responsible for clearing such accumulations. Snow displaced by municipal snowplowing operations onto or adjacent to mailboxes shall not be considered negligent or improper snow removal.

SECTION 3. Chapter 50, Article II, of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta is hereby amended to add a new section regulating fire hydrant clearance as follows:

§ 50-32. Fire hydrant clearance.

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- A. The owner, tenant, occupant, or person having charge of any property located adjacent to a fire hydrant shall maintain a clear area surrounding the hydrant at all times, including during and after snowstorms.
- B. During periods of snowfall or accumulation of snow, such person shall remove snow and ice within twenty-four (24) hours after the snowfall has ceased so that the hydrant remains clearly visible and accessible for emergency use.
- C. The cleared area shall include sufficient space around the hydrant to allow emergency personnel immediate access, including the hydrant outlet connections and the area directly in front of the hydrant.
- D. Failure to maintain hydrant access may result in enforcement action by the Borough as permitted by law.

SECTION 4. Chapter 50, Article II, of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta is hereby amended to add a new section regulating basketball hoops and similar recreational equipment as follows:

§ 50-33. Basketball hoops and recreational equipment near the curbline.

- A. No portable or fixed basketball hoop, goal, or similar recreational equipment shall be placed or maintained within the curbline, gutter area, or traveled portion of any public street.
- B. During periods of snowfall or when snow removal operations are underway or anticipated, such equipment shall be removed from areas adjacent to the curb so as not to interfere with municipal snowplowing operations.
- C. Any basketball hoop or similar equipment placed at or near the curbline in a manner that interferes with snow removal operations shall be subject to removal by the property owner upon notice from the Borough.
- D. The Borough shall not be responsible for damage to any basketball hoop or similar recreational equipment that is placed within the curbline or roadway area and is struck or damaged during snow removal operations.

SECTION 5. Chapter 50, Article II, of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta is hereby amended to add a new section regulating tree clearance along public streets as follows:

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§ 50-34. Tree trimming and clearance over streets.

- A. The owner, tenant, occupant, or person having charge of property upon which any tree or shrub is located shall maintain such vegetation so that branches do not obstruct or interfere with public streets, sidewalks, or municipal snow removal operations.
- B. All trees located on private property that overhang a public street shall be trimmed and maintained to provide a minimum vertical clearance of fourteen (14) feet above the roadway surface and a minimum vertical clearance of eight (8) feet above any public sidewalk.
- C. Branches or limbs that extend into the street right-of-way in a manner that obstructs the passage of municipal vehicles, including snowplows, sanitation vehicles, emergency vehicles, and other large trucks, shall be promptly trimmed or removed by the property owner.
- D. If a property owner fails to maintain trees in accordance with this section after receiving notice from the Borough, the Borough may cause the necessary trimming or removal to be performed and may recover the cost thereof from the property owner as permitted by law.

SECTION 6. Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 7. Repealer.

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

SECTION 8. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

ORDINANCE 2026-03
BOROUGH OF HELMETTA
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced: March 18, 2026

Recorded Vote

Motion made by

Second by

Councilman Dzingleski
Councilwoman Bohinski

Roll Call

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council President Karczewski				✓
Councilwoman Bohinski	✓			
Councilman Duffy	✓			
Councilman Dzingleski	✓			
Councilman Reid	✓			

Adopted on First Reading
Dated: March 18, 2026



Melissa Hallerman, Municipal Clerk

Adopted: April 15, 2026

Recorded Vote

Motion made by

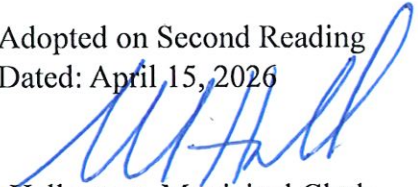
Second by

Councilman Reid
Council President Karczewski

Roll Call

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council President Karczewski	✓			
Councilwoman Bohinski	✓			
Councilman Duffy				✓
Councilman Dzingleski	✓			
Councilman Reid	✓			

Adopted on Second Reading
Dated: April 15, 2026



Melissa Hallerman, Municipal Clerk