

TOWN of MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT



Office of the First Selectman

May 8, 2023

Public Service Announcement

I'm writing this in response to many complaints and inquiries that I have received from many areas of town regarding reckless driving of unregistered dirt bikes and quads on our roadways. These vehicles are often being operated by teens that are not licensed to drive, are uninsured and have had no driver safety training.

While some claim it's just kids being kids; I've received many calls, texts, and emails:

- Pedestrians that have nearly been hit by speeding dirt bikes.
- Dirt bikes and quads running stop signs narrowly avoiding collision with vehicles.
- Privately owned fields, publicly owned property, and the town beach being torn up.
- Dirt bikes and quads being operated at dusk and after dark without proper lights.

I'd like to remind folks that this behavior is not only illegal, but it jeopardizes all of our safety and well-being. These vehicles are able to attain high speed and often aren't designed to operate safely on public roads.

Please consider the impact on the lives ruined if a child were hit by a car while illegally operating one of these dirt bikes; or, alternatively, if a licensed motorist were killed swerving to avoid the dirt biker.

I would encourage parents to assure your children only operate these vehicles on private land (with land owner's permission) and with adult supervision.

If you see someone operating an unregistered vehicle in a reckless manner, **please dial 911** and report incidents as they occur. Please note the color of the vehicle, helmet, and clothing when you report it. If you can get a photo, that will aid in the investigation.

If you see someone operating an unregistered vehicle in a reckless manner or on town or private property without authorization, **please dial 911** immediately – noting the color of the vehicle, helmet, and clothing. If you can get a photo, that will aid in the investigation.

Thank you,

Robert C. Yamartino
First Selectman
Town of Middlefield, Connecticut
860.349.7114; ryamartino@middlefieldct.org

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393 Jackson Hill Road, Middlefield, CT 06455 Phone 860.349.7114 Fax 860.349.7115