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**TAX COLLECTOR**  
Maureen Smith

**DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR**  
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# Borough of



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August 18, 2020

Borough council's statement on Zyiery Jones' interaction with Edgewood police over water bottle sales:

In the ten days leading up to Edgewood Police Officers encountering Zyiery Jones on Wednesday July 29, 2020, the department had at least seven different encounters with approximately 15 separate juveniles selling bottles of water and other goods. Each of these 911 dispatched calls had a similar theme: young children running into traffic, loitering on private property, and harassing pedestrians.

On Wednesday, July 29, 2020 while on routine patrol, two Edgewood police officers happened upon a small group of juveniles selling bottles of water from the corner of Swissvale and Walnut Avenues in front of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD). Edgewood officers observed them running out into the street to sell water to passing motorists. One of the officers pulled his patrol vehicle up to the boys and explained to them that they could not sell the water in Edgewood unless they had a permit. He explained that the kids should ask one of their parents to accompany them to the Borough building and obtain a permit; he told them this was the right way to go about being able to sell items in Edgewood.

The officers ended their encounter with the boys by asking them to clean up the garbage they had generated from their water bottle sales, cautioned them about being in traffic, encountering strangers while on the street, and that they could continue selling water across the street in Wilkinsburg until they obtained a permit from Edgewood.

On Monday, August 3, 2020, Ky Jones, Zyiery's mother, contacted the borough office and asked about obtaining a permit for her son, Zyiery. Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak and Chief of Police Bob Payne met with Mrs. Jones and her son and issued Zyiery his permit at no cost. Mrs. Jones stated she wanted her son to go through the process of obtaining the permit so he would learn about doing things the right way. Mrs. Jones made it very clear to both Mr. Zahorchak and Mr. Payne that Zyiery was not affiliated with the other group of juveniles and wants her son to continue his successful business. She worries about his safety and Mr. Payne assured her that the police would try to look out for him while he works in Edgewood.

Both parties agreed that keeping Zyiery safe and out of harm's way was the top priority. Unfortunately, a child was struck by a car several years ago just blocks from this intersection and almost died. Chief Payne and Mr. Zahorchak explained that for his safety, Zyiery would be required to stay on the sidewalk in front of WPSD. The intersection is controlled by a traffic signal and is monitored by CCTV should anything happen to Zyiery. Mrs. Jones and Zyiery were satisfied with this arrangement and the meeting ended.

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